

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, across the Nation, rates of hunger and food insecurity are on the rise. Since 1999, food insecurity has increased by 3.9 million individuals: 2.8 million adults and more than 1 million children.

The Federal Government, through child nutrition programs, has the opportunity to help dramatically lower the incidents of childhood hunger, giving all children a chance to grow, develop, and succeed in the classroom and beyond. Despite the educational and nutritional benefits of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the large majority of students who could qualify for and benefit from these programs are not being served. Currently, only 15% of Free School Lunch Kids participate in the summer programs.

This legislation, designed to improve the Summer Food Service Program, would encourage additional sponsors to participate in the SFSP by directing the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive start-up grants of no more than \$5 million per fiscal year for the 10 States with the least amount of sponsor participation. Further, it would increase child participation by requiring that 40 percent, rather than the current levels of 50 percent, of the children served by the SFSP in a region come from families below the 185 percent poverty level.

These modest changes will make an enormous difference to the over 13 million food-insecure children across the Nation who would benefit from a reliable source of healthy food to grow, develop, and succeed in the classroom and beyond.

### PARAMOUNT—"HAY TREE"

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, nearly 75 years ago, farmers gathered beneath the soaring camphor and depending on the weather and production level, set the price of hay around the world.

The Hay Tree, a 50-foot-high camphor, thought to be more than 100 years old—is considered one of the few remnants of the once-thriving dairy and hay industry that ruled southeastern Los Angeles County and Northwestern Orange County. From the 1920s through the 1950s this area was called "The Hay Capital of the World."

The Paramount Hay Tree has recently been named the latest historical landmark in California by the State Historical Resources Com-

mission. It was the first awarding of landmark status in southeast Los Angeles County in 10 years. The Hay Tree joins 1,100 landmarks throughout California, only 11 of which are also trees.

According to the Office of Historic Preservation, an object must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for landmark status: It must be considered the first, last or only one of its kind in the state or region, or it must be connected to a person or group having a significant influence in California history.

The towns of Hynes and Clearwater—which would later incorporate together as Paramount—were the hub of the southern California dairy country and became the world's largest hay market. The alfalfa was shipped in from as far away as Arizona and Montana. Each day's median hay price was quoted in major newspapers as the national and international standard. It was under the Hay Tree—an informal gathering place for truckers, farmers and workers—that the representatives from the area lots would compare notes and come up with the composite price figure.

The Hay Tree still holds sway over Paramount's newest addition—Civic Center Plaza, and will be the focal point of the new Plaza and Botanical Garden. A small park, set aside as open space in perpetuity, will surround the graceful camphor, signifying its sentimental and historical standing in town.

Paramount's oldest banner, the Hay Tree, is one of California's finest monuments—it speaks praise without boasting and will be a blessing to all for years to come.

### TRIBUTE TO BOB MAIER

**HON. JAY INSLEE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to a dedicated veteran, father, teacher, advocate, musician, and athlete. His leadership and courage touched many lives, including my own, and it is my great honor to recognize and commemorate this extraordinary man.

Robert B. Maier, was a model American citizen. He served in the U.S. Navy after graduating high school. Later, he taught American Studies and English at Mercer Island High School. A staunch advocate for public school and school employees, Bob worked in Washington State Capitol for 20 years. At the time of his death, he was chief lobbyist and director of public policy for the Washington Education Association.

Beyond these accomplishments, one of the most important things about Bob was his enthusiasm for life. Anyone could see it in the way he was always learning new things. He loved to play basketball and music. He read books and solved cross-word puzzles. He took leadership roles in his community. He was a contributor.

Bob's achievements and accomplishments speak to his tremendous love and respect for his community, friends, and family. I know he will be remembered by all those he touched. Our children are receiving a better education because of his long effort, for which we are deeply grateful.

### SPIKE IN METAL PRICES—WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SMALL MAN- UFACTURES

**HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today Chairman MANZULLO and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ held an important hearing for the small business. The hearing focused on the increase in steel prices.

Consumers of Steel expected that the removal of the tariffs by President Bush in December would decrease the price of steel and increase steel imports. However, this did not happen. For the past 2 months the price of steel has increased approximately by 30 percent.

The continuing increase in steel prices affects many parts of the economy, but particularly small manufacturing companies who buy their steel at market price. These small companies have not only been dealing with the increase in steel prices, they are now facing shortages in steel products. With these factors combined, it is virtually impossible for small manufacturers to survive.

I would like to share a story of a constituent of mine who has been dealing with this crisis. Argo Springs Manufacturing Company, located in Norwalk, CA, is a family company that has been in business for almost 40 years. They produce numerous products from springs to compression coils. Their customers range from the commercial and aerospace industry to military agencies.

Argo Springs currently employs 70 people, but with the sudden increase in prices and shortages in steel, it has become difficult for the company to compete in the manufacturing market. Randy Fox, vice president of Argo, told me and I quote,

On February 15, I bought steel at 34 cents a pound, but by March 2 the price of steel had increased by 59 cents. I am worried that the company will have to start laying-off workers and eventually go out of business. I'm not sure the company will outlast the crisis.

This story highlights the true impact of this crisis on small business owners. I am worried that if this crisis is not resolved, many small manufacturing companies like Argo Springs will not be able to continue doing business. This is unacceptable.

After talking to my constituent, Randy Fox, one thing is apparent to me—we need to do something about this crisis in the steel industry. Small businesses are the economic backbone of our Nation. It is imperative that we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

create a viable and reasonable economic environment for them to maintain their businesses and grow.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY RECTOR

##### HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sorrow that I rise on the House floor to mourn the passing of one of my past colleagues and personal friends. Although we all feel great loss with her passing and it is difficult to express grief for her family and all those who knew her, I would like to offer this tribute as a celebration of her many accomplishments.

Representative Shirley J. Rector was a woman of spirit and principle. As one of the first women to work at Kaiser Aluminum, she took the bull by the horns and was elected as Steelworkers Union Local 338 legislative education chair and recording secretary. Even at that time, her dedication to making the world a better place was clear.

Shirley was committed to public service. She was vice chair of the Democratic Central Committee. I am honored to have been her colleague when she served as a member of the State of Washington House of Representatives where she was instrumental in passing legislation for both the Shared and Family Leave Acts. She was also on the SIRT Higher Education Board and was co-founder of the Women Helping Women Fund. No one who was there will ever forget her speech which electrified the House concerning family and medical care.

I am humbled by these accomplishments and I am assured that her legacy of strong involvement in government and community has touched the lives of many.

#### FREEDOM FOR LUIS MILÁN FERNÁNDEZ

##### HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Luis Milán Fernández, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Milán Fernández is a medical doctor by profession. He chose to dedicate his life to healing people; but, Dr. Milán Fernández realized that the people of Cuba are in need of freedom as well as medicine. In June, 2001 he signed the Manifesto 2001, a document that protested the lack of basic freedoms in Cuba.

Dr. Milán Fernández continued to advocate for freedom for every Cuban when he joined the Independent Medical Association of Santiago. According to Amnesty International, he also joined fellow health professionals in a one-day hunger strike to call attention to the medical situation and other issues pertaining to the lack of freedom in totalitarian Cuba.

Because of his commitment to freedom for Cuba, Dr. Milán Fernández was a victim of the dictator's brutal March 2003 crackdown on

pro-democracy activists. In a sham trial, Dr. Milán Fernández was sentenced to 13 years in the totalitarian gulag.

The U.S. State Department's 2003 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices describes conditions in the totalitarian gulag as . . . harsh and life threatening. . . . police and prison officials often . . . beat, neglected, isolated, and denied medical treatment to detainees and prisoners, including those convicted of political crimes or those who persisted in expressing their views . . . Detainees and prisoners, both common and political, often were subjected to repeated, vigorous interrogations designed to coerce them into signing incriminating statements, to force collaboration with authorities, or to intimidate victims. Some endured physical and sexual abuse, typically by other inmates with the acquiescence of guards, or long periods in punitive isolation cells.

Dr. Milán Fernández is a brilliant example of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how fierce the repression, no matter how brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for freedom, the prisons of Cuba are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation. Thousands languish in the gulag because they refuse to accept the current reality of nightmarish oppression in Cuba today.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Milán Fernández is languishing in the horror of the totalitarian gulag because he believes in freedom for the people of Cuba. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Luis Milán Fernández and every prisoner of conscience suffering in the indescribable gulags of the nightmare called the Castro regime.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF LULAC ON ITS 75TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the League of United Latin American Citizens as it celebrates its 75th year of advancing the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of Hispanics in the United States.

LULAC's founding 75 years ago signaled the end of one era and the beginning of another. For decades, the Hispanic community had been engulfed in an environment of inequality, discrimination and injustice. The creation of an institution like LULAC initiated a positive change in the future direction of the Hispanic community as it embodied the will of a people to overcome these barriers to social inclusion and civic participation and claim their rights as U.S. citizens, to access the American dream.

Today, LULAC represents Hispanics in most parts of the United States, as well as Puerto Rico and Guam. It also serves as a cornerstone for some of the most successful Hispanic national organizations. For example, LULAC formed the American GI Forum to address the rights of Hispanic veterans. LULAC also helped to create the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund to function as the legal arm of the Hispanic community.

LULAC's record of activism, whether fighting for voting rights and full access to the political

process, equal educational opportunities for Hispanic children, or the rights of women and full inclusion in American society, is a testimony that it is an organization that will forever address those issues that impact the lives and future of all Hispanic Americans. I commend LULAC on its 75 years of service and the innumerable contributions it has made to our Hispanic community and our country as a whole.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JOSEPH M. HOFFEL

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. HOFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I was absent for three votes on Tuesday, March 9, 2004 due to a family illness. Had I been present, I would have cast my votes as follows: Rollcall No. 42 (H. Res. 519), "aye"; Rollcall No. 43 (H. Res. 392), "aye"; Rollcall No. 44 (H. Res. 475), "aye."

#### A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING CARR-BAILEY AMERICAN LEGION POST NO. 519

##### HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker:

Whereas, Carr-Bailey American Legion Post No. 519 of Mineral City is recognized for supporting American forces in Iraq; and

Whereas, Carr-Bailey Post No. 519 has upheld their Congressional mandate to support veterans and active-duty members of the United States armed forces by providing care packages to the brave men and women serving in Iraq; and

Whereas, Carr-Bailey Post No. 519 has demonstrated patriotic and faithful dedication to those fighting for liberty and freedom at home and around the world;

Therefore, I join with the residents of Tuscarawas County and the entire 18th Congressional District in commending Carr-Bailey American Legion Post No. 519 for continued support of our American troops overseas.

#### CONGRATULATING LAKE HIGHLANDS HIGH SCHOOL ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

##### HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to Lake Highlands High School in Dallas, TX, on the occasion of their 40th anniversary.

Education is one of the most important issues facing the future of our great Nation. If America is to continue to be the leader of the modern world, we must offer a solid educational foundation for our citizens. To succeed in school and life, every student needs a basic set of skills. They need to listen attentively, speak persuasively, read with understanding, and write with command.

Over the past 40 years, Lake Highlands High School has maintained a commitment to academic, athletic and artistic excellence and community service. Lake Highlands High School has produced 17 National Merit Finalists in the last 2 years alone, along with district championships in nearly every athletic competition offered.

Since I was elected to Congress, I have visited Lake Highlands High School many times. Clearly, Lake Highlands High School is an institution dedicated to offering students a well-rounded education and an opportunity to become genuine leaders.

As the Congressman for the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, I am very proud to represent Lake Highlands High School, it's teachers and it's students. I would like to offer my congratulations to their administrators, alumni, coaches, students, and parents on this momentous occasion and best wishes for their continued success.

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CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS FIGHTING ILLINI MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a truly remarkable group of young athletes. The University of Illinois Fighting Illini Men's Basketball Team has had a memorable 2003–2004 season ending March 7 with the winning of their first outright Big Ten Conference title in 52 years.

Having won regular season Big Ten championships in 3 of the last 4 years, the pressure was on this young team and first year coach Bruce Weber to continue this championship success. After starting the Big Ten Conference season with a record of 3–3 and losing its first two road games, some began to doubt that this success would continue. However, credit must be given to Coach Weber and his staff and the unbelievable determination put forth by a team with only one senior, as the Illini concluded their season by winning ten straight conference games, of which six were on the road. I look forward to more Illini victories this weekend in the Big Ten Conference Tournament and later in the NCAA Basketball Championship Tournament and wish them continued success.

Coach Bruce Weber, his staff, and the entire University of Illinois men's basketball team are a great source of pride for their University, the Champaign-Urbana community and the 15th District of Illinois. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Coach Weber and the entire 2003–04 Fighting Illini Men's Basketball team.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND B. WINGERD, SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

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**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to pay tribute to Raymond B. Wingerd, who is retiring after 36 years of public service in the San Bernardino County Probation Department, helping those who have paid their debt to society return to a normal life.

Just months after his graduation from Up-land College, Raymond Wingerd joined the county probation department as a Probation Officer I, and with the exception of an 18-month stint as a teacher in Zimbabwe, has been with the department ever since.

Showing promise as a manager of others, Wingerd moved up to a supervising probation officer in 1972, and 5 years later to assistant director of the juvenile division, managing the intake, investigations and transportation sections. He was named a year later as Director of Special Services, overseeing the department's community resources, training, victim advocacy and work sentencing programs. One year after that he became director of the department's Verdmont Boys Ranch, a long-term program that focused on family counseling to help troubled youths turn their lives around.

In 1982, Wingerd was promoted to be the Division Director in charge of Juvenile Hall, three residential treatment institutions, clinical services and food services for 400 delinquent youth. By this time, he was managing 300 employees and handling an \$11.7 million budget. He became the Central Services Division Director in 1988, overseeing adult and juvenile court investigations and field supervision of 4,000 offenders.

Raymond Wingerd was named Chief Probation Officer for the county in 1994, overseeing a staff of 1,200 and a \$98 million annual budget, and has served in that position until his retirement. During his tenure, Chief Wingerd has led the planning and construction of new juvenile facilities in the county's West Valley and the High Desert—decentralizing and modernizing the department's approach to juvenile detention.

During his years in top management in the department, Chief Wingerd has helped create a series of youthful offender programs that have seen many innovative programs put in place in San Bernardino County. The department partners with county schools and the U.S. Forest Service to provide a 90-day intensive outdoor work program as an early intervention resource. The Youth Justice Center brings together schools, probation, public, and mental health and community-based organizations to provide a day-reporting program for youths on probation—a model used by the state legislature to create a statewide program. There are now 12 Youth Accountability Boards made up of citizens who help make dispositional decisions for first-time offenders.

The National Association of Counties gave national recognition to two projects created by Wingerd in the 1980s: A Regional Youth Education Facility with 40 beds, and a wilderness

diversion program designed to keep troubled youth out of the justice system.

Throughout his career, Chief Wingerd has been active in probation officer groups, serving as president of the Chief Probation Offices of California in 1998 and 1999, and most recently as a Probation Committee Member of the American Correctional Association. He is a board member of Everest College and San Bernardino Communities Against Drugs.

Mr. Speaker, the dedication of Chief Raymond Wingerd continues to this day, as he has agreed to continue his service as interim chief until a new head of the department can be recruited. Please join me in thanking him for his many years of public service and wishing he and his wife Linda well in their future endeavors.

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HONORING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF K&A CRYLICS INC.

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**HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 25th anniversary of K&A Crylics Inc. The company will honor its customers, vendors and employees at a March 18 luncheon when it will also donate \$25,000 to five community organizations in Wartrace, Tennessee.

Brothers Kevin and Allen Wright founded K&A in their hometown of Wartrace in 1980. The company, a leading national supplier of acrylic and plastic store fixtures and displays, has grown from a two-man operation working out of an old store front to a larger, modern facility with 65 employees.

In addition to being a major employer in Wartrace, K&A improves the lives of those in the community in many ways. At the luncheon, for example, K&A will donate \$5,000 to each of the following organizations: Cascade schools, the Wartrace Volunteer Fire Department, the Wartrace Chamber of Commerce, the Wartrace Parks and Recreation Department and the town of Wartrace. The funds will be used for education, fire equipment upgrades, permanent historical building markers, upgrades to the Wartrace gym and renovation of the historic Wartrace rock jail.

I congratulate K&A for reaching this milestone. The company should be proud of its service to both its national customer base and the local community. May K&A's next 25 years be as prosperous and successful as its first 25 years.

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REPUBLICANS HAVE FOCUSED ON RESULTS

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**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, since I was elected to Congress, I have heard endless rhetoric from those on the other side of the aisle about the economy, tax cuts and the deficit. Unfortunately, when the political fog clears, it appears that our Democratic friends are more concerned with rhetoric than they are with results.

Democrats have come to the floor and spoken about an "exploding deficit" that will "haunt our children for years to come." One Democrat has even referred to the deficit as "immoral."

However, their record speaks much larger than their endless rhetoric. For example, the Democrats have proposed approximately \$890 billion in alternatives to major legislation considered on the House floor last year. This would have added almost one trillion dollars to the deficit. But before the chamber could clear, I am sure those Democrats were back on the floor yelling about deficit levels.

During the Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Resolution, Democrats had another great opportunity to focus on the deficit and responsible spending. The Budget Committee proposed a one percent reduction in non-defense spending in order to reduce the vast amount of waste, fraud and abuse so prevalent throughout the federal government. This proposal did not receive a single vote by a Democrat on the committee.

Unfortunately, the deficit is not the only economic issue where Democrats are strong on rhetoric, but absent on results. This chamber has been the venue for many Democrats complaining about the President's tax cuts. Democrats have called the President's tax relief plan "reckless tax cuts for the rich" and even a "fraud and a failure."

Unfortunately, when addressing President Bush's tax relief plan, there are no facts that Democrats fail to misrepresent. The accusation that this tax relief is a tax cut for the rich is the most often and obvious misrepresentation of the facts. Democrats not only voted against this tax relief, but some have even advocated rescinding the President's entire tax relief package. Let us take a look at what would happen had those Democrats been able to rescind the President's tax relief.

Reinstate nine million low-income Americans back on the tax rolls.

Reinstate the marriage penalty.

Cut in half the \$1,000 per child tax credit.

Raise taxes on education savings by 75 percent.

Eliminate income tax deduction for paying college tuition.

Raise the capital gains tax by 25 percent and 50 percent for lower income families.

Increase the double tax of dividends by as much as 62 percent.

Reinstate the death tax.

Reduce the adoption credit and the dependent care credit.

Eliminate emergency tax relief to areas affected by the attacks of September 11, 2001.

Not only do some of our Democrat friends fight tax relief, they only propose one alternative: raise taxes on hard-working American people. Their talking points may avoid the facts, but raising taxes is the only economic policy Democrats have put forth. In fact, Democrats have proposed raising taxes ten times in the House and fifteen times in the Senate over the last year. This record speaks for itself.

It is important, as well, to highlight the reasons why their rhetoric about the President's tax relief has been proven wrong. They claim—as I have mentioned—that the President's tax relief was only "for the rich." I would guess they assume that low and middle income families are not affected by the marriage penalty, small family farmers are not affected

by the death tax and middle-income parents are not affected by the adoption tax credit. It also appears that they have forgotten that the President's tax relief took millions of low-income Americans off the tax rolls all together.

Democrats have also claimed that the tax relief passed by this Congress will create no stimulus for jobs. It is clear that economic developments have silenced that argument, but it is important to highlight why. According to the Department of Commerce, three million fewer Americans would be working today if the tax relief plan were not signed into law. Gross Domestic Product would also be as much as 3.5 to 4% lower by the end of 2004.

How can Democrats claim that job creation hasn't happened when 112,000 new jobs were created in January and 366,000 jobs have been added over the past five months? How can they claim that the President's tax relief plan is not creating jobs when the unemployment rate has had the fastest seven month decline in nearly a decade? These are the facts and the facts seem to stand in stark contrast to the rhetoric we hear from the Democrats when it comes to economic policy.

Now the Democrats are fighting to allow the tax relief to expire. Although Democrats try to avoid it, this policy is a tax increase. If the 2001 and 2003 tax relief acts were to expire now, it would raise taxes by an average of \$1,544 for 109 million taxpayers in 2003, according to the Department of Commerce.

While rhetoric may have led some to believe otherwise, Democrats have clearly outlined a plan over the last year that would not only contribute almost one trillion dollars to the deficit, but would also raise taxes on the American families. These are the facts and the records certainly highlight those facts.

We are at a crucial point in economic policy—as spending-driven deficits and burdensome taxes are clearly affecting American families. This resolution will address the deficit, spending and eliminating waste, fraud and abuse. This stands in stark contrast to the reckless spending and taxing advocated by the Democrats.

As we debate the budget, I encourage my friends on the other side of the aisle to join us in reducing the deficit—not by proposing almost a trillion dollars in additional spending, but focusing on reductions in programs that are wasteful, duplicative or outdated. Furthermore, I encourage Democrats to oppose the large increases that only foster high deficits, while helping to reduce the burden of the tax code on American families—not by raising taxes—but through common sense tax relief.

Republicans have focused on results—the economy is rebounding, the trend of job creation is increasing, homeownership is at record levels and GDP and consumer confidence is steadily growing. I ask my Democrat friends to stop the rhetoric and begin focusing on results.

#### TRIBUTE TO SCANA

#### HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend SCANA Corporation, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in my State, on being

selected as the recipient of the United States Department of Labor's Opportunity Award. Each year, the Secretary of Labor selects one Federal contractor as the recipient of this high honor. It is given to the company which has most clearly exemplified that they have established and instituted comprehensive workforce strategies to ensure equal employment opportunity. On February 19, the Secretary of Labor presented this award to SCANA officials in what was a very impressive ceremony.

The nominees for the Opportunity Award must be Federal contractors covered by Executive Order 11246, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Vietnam Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act, and must have a spotless record of compliance with Federal law. All of them must demonstrate that they have developed and are implementing a multifaceted equal employment opportunity program directed towards the changing demographics of the labor force. I spent a lot of time, in my life before Congress, counseling Federal contractors in my State on the virtues of Executive Order 11246, and SCANA was often used by me as an example of how and why it could and should be done.

I am proud that my constituent, the SCANA Corporation, has continued to demonstrate a commitment to equal employment opportunity, and has achieved measurable results that have significantly enhanced equal employment opportunities for employees, including minorities, women, individuals with disabilities, and veterans. To win this high honor, a company must have strong core values to serve as the foundation for successful implementation of its equal employment opportunity policies in every facet of the employment relationship and throughout the company.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the Department of Labor has bestowed this high honor on the SCANA Corporation, and ask that you and my colleagues join me in commending SCANA for its ongoing efforts to institute comprehensive workforce strategies to ensure equal employment opportunities.

IN HONOR OF THE CITY MANAGER  
LARRY BLICK FOR HIS SERVICE  
TO THE CITY OF INDEPENDENCE,  
MISSOURI

#### HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of Larry N. Blick's retirement as City Manager of Independence, Missouri. Larry Blick came to Independence more than a decade ago with over 30 years of experience in public administration, and in these past 10 years has partnered with Mayor Stewart and the community to bring growth and a new spirit to this "All American City."

As Independence City Manager, Larry inspired community trust and was instrumental in the passage of numerous measures necessary to the revitalization of Independence's infrastructure, neighborhoods and parks. An active member of the International City/County Management Association, Missouri Municipal League Board, and the Independence Council for Economic Development, Larry Blick has served tirelessly in prominent roles with these

professional associations and boards. Through MARC, the Mid America Regional Council, he was instrumental in the economic development of the Little Blue Valley and the creation of the I-70/Little Blue Parkway interchange to ease traffic flow and provide access for valley expansion. His leadership was an integral part of the development of eastern Jackson County, particularly his focus on neighborhood revitalization, road improvements and numerous renovations to area parks.

I am honored by the opportunity to collaborate with Larry Blick and Mayor Ron Stewart to secure Federal funding for local projects such as the Lewis and Clark Roadway, the Memorial Building, grants to support local first responders in protecting our community, FEMA assistance for the devastating 2002 ice storm, and for the expansion of the Blue River Community College to train our law enforcement officials and first responders. A lasting achievement for which he will long be remembered is his efforts to secure the prestigious title of "All American City" for Independence in 2001. Larry Blick's work with the community played a crucial role in highlighting Independence's enterprises, schools, parks and history to earn the support of the All-America City Program.

Around his office, Larry carries a coffee mug that states, "Will golf for food." I join with myriad others in wishing him time during his retirement to hit the greens and spend quality time with his loving family.

Another great leader from Independence, President Harry S Truman, made this observation in 1951: "Unless a man is fundamentally sound ethically, you can't teach him what to do as a public servant." As City Manager, Larry has exhibited exemplary vision, sound values and unwavering commitment to fundamental issues important to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in saluting the remarkable service of retiring City Manager Larry Blick. His leadership will be missed, but his accomplishments will live on as a reminder of the difference he made by his outstanding service to the city of Independence, Missouri.

#### UNSUNG HERO AWARD

#### HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, when the idea of Black History Month, formerly Black History Week, was conceived by historian, Carter G. Woodson, he envisioned a celebration of black history achievement as well as an educational medium. Mr. Woodson organized the first celebration in 1926 to be held the second week in February in honor of Frederick Douglass's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. Because of its popularity among the black and white press, schools and women's clubs, the week long commemoration was expanded into a month-long salute to African Americans. Black History Month now provides an annual forum for African Americans to share their culture with the world.

For the past 5 years, I have hosted an Unsung Hero Program during Black History Month as a means of acknowledging the many accomplishments of my constituents who often go unnoticed for their service to the community.

The following residents of Texas's 9th Congressional District have proven they embrace Mr. Woodson's vision of a brighter tomorrow by their efforts to serve humanity. I am proud and honored to present my 2004 Unsung Heroes for inclusion in the U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

Mrs. Carla Allen, Mr. Rudolph P. Antoine, Ms. Shirley Bailey-Jones, Detective Alton James Baise, Mr. Reginald C. Boykin, Sr., Ms. Whitney Breaux, Bishop B. R. Brown, Mr. Keith Chachere, Mrs. Linda G. Clark, Mr. Freddie L. Coleman, Pastor Michael Cooper, Mrs. Tanya Mechelle Corbin, Ms. Josie Curtis, Mr. Shawn Dorian Dages, Ms. Kimberly Darest, Mr. Timothy W. Duriso, Mr. Murphy J. Fisher, Mr. Matthew J. Francis, Sr., Mr. Freddie Franks, Ms. Loma George, Mr. Melvin G. Getwood, Sr., God's Kitchen Angels, Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, Mr. Eddie Guillory, Mr. Shelton Guillory, Sr., Ms. Delores Jean Gunner, Mrs. Mary Hayes, Mr. Benjamin J. Jones, Sr., Mr. Willie "K" Knighton, Mr. Jerry Levias, Mr. Michael W. Lewis, Reverend Mark McKinley, Ms. Dorothy J. Milburn, Ms. Ann Monette, Mr. Everett Moton, Mr. Gregory B. Mouton, Mr. Christopher C. Mouton, Mr. Eric Narcisse, Ms. Tina Nguyen, Mr. John E. Payton, Mr. Edgar Sonny Perkins, Jr., Mr. Gene Perkins, Mr. Alex Warren Sanders, Jr., Mr. James Saveat, Ms. Madeline Kaye Savoy, Reverend Charles H. Segura, Ms. Ora Segura, Ms. Janai Sells, Mr. Brandon Smith, Reverend Adam Smith, Constable Joe Stevenson, Mr. Joseph Threats, Mr. Howard Trahan III, Ms. Thuytram Tram, Mr. Jack Turner, Mrs. Kate Walker, Ms. Wanda G. Wallace, Reverend Alfred White, Mr. Eugene Wilson, Jr.

Members of the communities in the 9th District nominated these individuals for the Unsung Heroes award that gives special recognition to those unsung heroes, willing workers, and individuals who are so much a part of Texas's and our Nation's rich history. The award winners were chosen because they embody a giving and sharing spirit, and made a contribution to our Nation. I am proud to represent them here in Congress.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO BARBARA JEFFERIES

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Barbara Jefferies and thank her for the remarkable civic contributions she has made to her Durango community and the State of Colorado. As a lifelong resident and rancher of La Plata County, Colorado, Barbara has actively participated in numerous community organizations. Recently, the Durango Chamber of Commerce recognized her efforts as they named her their Agriculturist of the Year. It is with great satisfaction that I congratulate Barbara for her well-deserved award, and thank her for her significant contributions to the Durango Community.

Barbara's life has always revolved around agriculture; she was born on her grandmother's farm, raised on her parents' ranch, and now works on a ranch with her husband Ned. Her commitment to the agricultural community in Colorado includes her involvement

with the La Plata County Cow Belles, La Plata-Archuleta County Farm Bureau and Cattleman's Association, and the Colorado Cattlemen's Association. Her enthusiasm for taking part in these organizations comes from her firm belief that "agriculture takes a lot of people to be involved to keep it going," as told to the Durango Herald.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Barbara Jefferies is a woman of great commitment to the agricultural community in Durango and the State of Colorado. Barbara's willingness to provide her time and experience to her fellow farmers and ranchers is worthy of recognition before this body of Congress and this nation today. It is my privilege to extend to Barbara my sincere congratulations on her being named Agriculturist of the Year by the Durango Chamber of Commerce, and to wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

#### ON BEHALF OF VETERANS

#### HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. McINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 77,015 veterans in my district. These selfless warriors have dedicated their lives to fighting for this great country and our freedoms, and it is disheartening that many of them do not have access to adequate and affordable health care. Long ago, we made a promise to our veterans and military retirees that we would provide quality health care in return for their service. Unfortunately, over time, this promise has been broken, and too often today quality veterans' facilities are too far away to be truly accessible to rural veterans. How can we continue to sit back and ignore our veterans' requests for better access to health care? Don't we owe it to them to ensure that they are properly cared for? It is time that we take on a new attitude and put forth real actions that will help us to make achievements for veterans for years to come.

First, it's about attitude—the attitude to change the way we provide health care to our veterans today. In my district in rural southeastern North Carolina, there has been enormous growth within the veteran population. In addition to being the home of or near to important military installations, including Fort Bragg, Pope Air Force Base, Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point, and three Coast Guard stations, the area is widely known for its pristine beaches and recreational activities. These amenities make the area a popular destination for retirement, and I am pleased that so many of our courageous service men and women either move to or remain in the area after their retirement. However, with this increase in the veterans' population comes the important issue of how best to serve our veterans' health care needs.

Although Southeastern North Carolina is represented by two commendable VA facilities, access to care remains limited. Veterans in the town of Supply must drive over two hours to be seen at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center. And those who need more specialized care must drive an additional two hours to the Durham VA Medical Center. One trip alone could equal eight hours of driving! In addition, because both the Fayetteville VA

Medical Center and the Wilmington VA Clinic are operating over their budgeted capacity, there is concern that if these facilities are not expanded, they will face difficulties taking new patients. We need to develop a direct and positive attitude to change this system properly and bring our veterans in closer contact with their health care providers!

Secondly, we must put forth actions that will ensure that our rural veterans receive the proper care that they deserve. That is why I am cosponsoring legislation that would set aside a percentage of funds appropriated to the VA medical care funds to be used for highly rural or geographically-remote veterans. The Rural Veterans Access to Care Act would also encourage the Secretary of the VA to use his contract authority to assist highly rural veterans in obtaining health care services closer to home.

In my district, most of the veterans fought in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf, and they are suffering medical conditions that make traveling any distance extremely difficult, if not impossible. These veterans also have to travel in inclement weather to receive basic health care from the VA. In addition, many times they have to reschedule their appointments, which could mean waiting over a month for a simple test. It is disgraceful that veterans have to travel hundreds of miles to get their blood pressure checked or to have routine blood tests done.

Mr. Speaker, I stand committed to improving health care benefits for our veterans—not only for those who have duly served our country, but also for those valiant soldiers who will become the veterans of tomorrow. That's why I am also cosponsoring the Keep Our Promise to America's Military Retirees Act, which would take an additional step toward restoring adequate health care to military retirees by allowing them to participate in the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. We must continue to support our promise so that all veterans will receive the health care benefits that they deserve.

In addition, I am supporting legislation, the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act, which would provide for a guaranteed adequate level of funding for veterans health care. Unfortunately, the money that is set aside for VA hospitals and clinics falls under discretionary spending, meaning that there is no guarantee that it will be increased as the demand grows. Without this funding, rural veterans will continue to be served in outdated or understaffed facilities—or continue to receive inadequate health care due to a lack of health care services in their area.

Finally, it's about achievement! Let us make the commitment to achieve new incentives for our veterans. As I talk to veterans in my district, I become increasingly concerned that their needs are simply not being met. As you know, the Department of Veterans Affairs is directing an initiative—the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES)—to redirect resources within the department and address the changing needs of veterans. Recently, the CARES Commission released its report, which the Secretary is in the process of reviewing. While I am pleased that the report effectively recognized access and capacity concerns, I am hopeful that the VA Secretary's final report will provide additional incentives for our veterans.

Specifically, I urge the Secretary to provide not only an expansion of the Fayetteville VA

Medical Center and the expansion of the Wilmington VA Clinic to a satellite outpatient clinic, but also two community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) for my district—one in Supply (Brunswick County) and one in Lumberton (Robeson County). If we could achieve these vital expansions and new facilities, access to care would no longer be a problem and veterans would not be forced to drive long distances to receive vital health care services. This would be a real achievement for the veterans in my district, and I am confident that these initiatives will provide the services that they are lacking now.

Mr. Speaker, I think we can all agree that timely access to health care is an important national priority to provide veterans the benefits they earned in military service to our country. As we find ourselves in times that threaten our very freedom, our nation must never forget those who have fought so hard to ensure that our freedom endures. Therefore, I say to my colleagues, let us join together today with a new and positive attitude towards health care for veterans, and let us work together to put forth the necessary actions to help us to achieve our goal! Our veterans are counting on us! And may God's blessings be with you!

#### IN RECOGNITION OF THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, on March 10, 2000, the United States Senate passed a resolution (S. Res. 60) to recognize this day in commemoration of the Tibetans who suffered and died during the Lhasa uprising, which began on this day in 1959. The resolution also reserves this day as an occasion to renew calls by the President, Congress, and other U.S. Government officials on the Government of the People's Republic of China to enter into serious negotiations with the Dalai Lama or his representatives until a peaceful solution, satisfactory to both sides, is achieved.

It has now been 55 years since the Chinese Army invaded Tibet, forcing the then free and independent country to accept the infamous Chinese 17-point agreement in which Tibet was incorporated into China. Under the agreement, China promised to preserve all aspects of freedom in Tibet, including the role of the Dalai Lama. Today, the Chinese Government continues to commit gross violations of human rights in Tibet as well as to show total disregard for their agreement. During the time of Chinese occupation, more than 6,000 monasteries have been destroyed and the monks and nuns who resided in these places have been displaced, exiled, tortured and killed. Not only are the religious leaders persecuted, but the people of Tibet are forced to live in fear of arbitrary arrest, torture and imprisonment without trial.

I would like to use this day to ask the leaders of this country to unite in calling on China to end its abuses against the people of Tibet and to submit the statement made today by his Holiness the Dalai Lama for the RECORD.

STATEMENT OF HIS HOLINESS THE DALAI LAMA ON THE FORTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TIBETAN NATIONAL UPRISING DAY

Today we commemorate the 45th anniversary of the Tibetan People's Uprising of 1959. I pay tribute to the many brave Tibetan men and women who have sacrificed their lives for the cause of Tibetan freedom. They will always be remembered. This year marks 50 years since my visit to mainland China in 1954 to meet with the then Chinese leaders, especially Mao Tse-tung. I remember very well that I embarked on the journey with deep concerns about the future of Tibet. I was assured by all the leaders I met that the Chinese presence in Tibet was to work for the welfare of the Tibetans and "to help develop" Tibet. While in China I also learned about internationalism and socialism which deeply impressed me. So I returned to Tibet with optimism and confidence that a peaceful and mutually beneficial coexistence could be worked out. Unfortunately, soon after my return China was embroiled in political unrest unleashed by radical political campaigns. These developments impacted the Chinese policy on Tibet resulting in more repression and rigidity leading finally to the Tibetan People's Uprising in March 1959.

My hope is that this year may see a significant breakthrough in our relations with the Chinese Government. As in 1954, so also today, I am determined to leave no stone unturned for seeking a mutually beneficial solution that will address both Chinese concerns as well as achieve for the Tibetan people a life in freedom, peace and dignity. Despite the decades of separation the Tibetan people continue to place tremendous trust and hope in me. I feel a great sense of responsibility to act as their free spokesman. In this regard, the fact that President Hu Jintao has personal knowledge about the situation and problems in Tibet can be a positive factor in resolving the Tibetan issue. I am therefore willing to meet with today's leaders of the People's Republic of China in the effort to secure a mutually acceptable solution to the Tibetan issue.

My envoys have established direct contact with the Chinese government on two trips to China in September 2002 and in May/June 2003. This is a positive and welcome development, which was initiated during the Presidency of Jiang Zemin. The issue of Tibet is complex and of crucial importance to Tibetan as well as Chinese peoples. Consequently, it requires careful considerations and serious deliberations on both sides before taking any decisions. It will take time, patience and determination to lead this process to a successful conclusion. However, I consider it of highest importance to maintain the momentum and to intensify and deepen this process through regular face-to-face meetings and substantive discussions. This is the only way to dispel existing distrust and misconception and to build trust and confidence.

Consequently, I have instructed my envoys to visit China at the earliest date to continue the process. I hope that they will be able to make this trip without much delay. This will help in building trust and confidence in the present process among Tibetans as well as among our friends and supporters around the world—many of whom remain strongly skeptical about the willingness of Beijing to engage in a genuine process of rapprochement and dialogue.

The current situation in Tibet benefits neither the Tibetans nor the government of the People's Republic of China. The development projects that the Chinese Government has launched in Tibet—purportedly to benefit the Tibetan people—are however, having



negative effects on the Tibetan people's distinct cultural, religious and linguistic identity. More Chinese settlers are coming to Tibet resulting in the economic marginalization of the Tibetan people and the sinicization of their culture. Tibetans need to see an improvement in the quality of their life, the restoration of Tibet's pristine environment and the freedom to decide an appropriate model of development.

I welcome the release of Ani Phuntsok Nyidrol, even as we recognize the injustice of her sentence and continue to urge for the release of all political prisoners in Tibet. The human rights situation in Tibet has not seen any marked improvement. Human rights violations in Tibet have a distinct character of preventing Tibetans as a people from asserting their own identity and culture. The violations are a result of policies of racial and cultural discrimination and religious intolerance.

Against this background we are encouraged and grateful that many individuals, governments and parliaments around the world have been urging the People's Republic of China to resolve the question of Tibet through peaceful negotiations. Led by the European Union and the United States there is growing realization in the international community that the issue of Tibet is not one of human rights violations alone but of deeper political nature which needs to be resolved through negotiations.

I am also encouraged by the recent improvements in the relationship between India and China. It has always been my belief that better understanding and relations between India and China, the two most populous nations of the world is of vital importance for peace and stability in Asia in particular and in the world in general. I believe that improved relations between India and China will create a more conducive political environment for the peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue. I also strongly believe India can and should play a constructive and influential role in resolving the Tibetan problem peacefully. My 'Middle-Way-Approach' should be an acceptable policy on Tibet for India as it addresses the Tibetan issue within the framework of the People's Republic of China. A solution to the Tibetan issue through this approach would help India to resolve many of her disputes with China, too.

It is 54 years since the establishment of the People's Republic of China. During Mao Zedong's period much emphasis was put on ideology, while Deng Xiaoping concentrated primarily on economic development. His successor Jiang Zemin broadened the base of the Communist Party by enabling wealthy people to become part of the Communist Party under his theory of "The Three Represents". In recent times Hu Jintao and his colleagues were able to achieve a smooth transition of leadership. During the past decades China has been able to make much progress. But there have also been shortcomings and failures in various fields, including in the economy. One of the main causes of the shortcomings and failures seems to be the inability to deal with and act according to the true and real situation. In order to know the real and true situation it is essential that there be free information.

China is undergoing a process of deep change. In order to affect this change smoothly and without chaos and violence I believe it is essential that there be more openness and greater freedom of information and proper awareness among the general public. We should seek truth from facts—facts that are not falsified. Without this China cannot hope to achieve genuine stability. How can there be stability if things must be hidden and people are not able to speak out their true feelings?

I am hopeful that China will become more open and eventually more democratic. I have for many years advocated that the change and transformation of China should take place smoothly and without major upheavals. This is in the interest of not only the Chinese people but also the world community.

China's emergence as a regional and global power is also accompanied by concerns, suspicion and fears about her power. Hosting the Olympic Games and World Exposition will not help to dispel these concerns. Unless Beijing addresses the lack of basic civil and political rights and freedoms of its citizens, especially with regard to minorities, China will continue to face difficulties in reassuring the world that she is a peaceful, responsible, constructive and forward-looking power.

The Tibetan issue represents both a challenge and an opportunity for a maturing China to act as an emerging global player with vision and values of openness, freedom, justice and truth. A constructive and flexible approach to the issue of Tibet will go a long way in creating a political climate of trust, confidence and openness, both domestically and internationally. A peaceful resolution of the Tibetan issue will have wide-ranging positive impacts on China's transition and transformation onto a modern, open and free society. There is now a window of opportunity for the Chinese leadership to act with courage and farsightedness in resolving the Tibetan issue once and for all.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and gratitude for this consistent support that we have been receiving throughout the world. I would also like to express once again on behalf of the Tibetans our appreciation and immense gratitude to the people and the Government of India for their unwavering and unmatched generosity and support.

With my prayers for the well-being of all sentient beings.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANTHI POULOS JONES

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sad heart that I rise to pay tribute to the passing of a dedicated scholar and public servant and dear friend from Potomac, Maryland. Anthi Poulos Jones, born in Greece and raised in New Hampshire, recently passed away at the age of 57. Anthi dedicated her life to government service and the challenging legal profession. I am honored today to bring her contributions to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation.

After graduating from Windham College in Vermont, Anthi went on to receive a master's degree in Russian Studies and a law degree from American University. As a perpetual scholar, Anthi took up additional studies in international law at Georgetown University and the prestigious Hague Academy of International Law in the Netherlands.

Throughout her pursuit of knowledge, she also worked as a legislative assistant and staff lawyer for Senator Thomas J. McIntyre, Charles McC. Mathias Jr., John Glenn Jr., and Hank Brown. During the 1990's, Anthi worked for my office, where she served as a valuable member of my staff and counsel. Anthi's dedi-

cation and ceaseless work ethic has benefited many citizens of Colorado. After working on my staff, she was appointed as a scholar-in-residence at the Law Library of Congress where she focused on war crimes and reparations for property looted in wartime.

Anthi was an active patron of the arts and a devoted patriot. She served as the founder and chairwoman of the Committee on World War II Art Claims and the US Committee on the Parthenon where she advocated for the return of ancient Greek statues that were removed from Greece and taken to England in the 19th century.

Mr. Speaker, Anthi Poulos Jones was a dedicated scholar and government steward who selflessly served her community and country, and I am honored to pay tribute to such an industrious public servant. Her lifetime of service is an incredible model for America's youth. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this time of bereavement.

#### CONGRATULATING JIM WALTZE ON BECOMING PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA

**HON. JERRY LEWIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like today to congratulate Jim Waltze, the CEO of construction industry leader Griffith Company, on being selected as president of the Associated General Contractors of America. Mr. Waltze is a visionary leader in an industry that is one of the pillars of our economy.

Jim Waltze started in contracting at the age of 21, and in 1973 at age 28 he joined the Griffith Company, one of the top major construction firms in Southern California. His career at Griffith has been marked by regular promotions—to Chief Estimator in 1975, vice president/district manager in 1977 and executive vice president in 1986. He was named president of the company in 1992, and added the titles of chief executive officer and board chairman in 1997.

Under his leadership, Griffith Company has taken on some of the largest port projects in Southern California, including the \$37 million Seaside Project for the Port of Los Angeles and the \$71 million Pier T Project for the Port of Long Beach. He has been the driving force for innovation at the company, setting up a company wide strategic planning process and the development of divisions for specialty structures, underground projects and materials. The company has been a pioneer in computerized estimating and project management systems.

The contributions of Jim Waltze go beyond the success of his company, however. He has been involved for most of his career in organizations that promote the economic health and high standards of the contracting industry. He has been a board member of the Associated General Contractors of California for two decades, and was elected to the National Board of Directors for the Associated General Contractors of America in 1987.

The positions Jim Waltze has taken on with the AGC range from the Chairman of the

Highway Division in 1995 to an active involvement in the group's Young Constructors Forum for students coming into the profession. He served from 1999–2001 as co-chairman of the National Quality Initiative, established by the Federal Highway Administration to ensure that the construction and maintenance of our interstates and national highways meets the highest possible standards. He has been an active member of the Transportation Information Program and Transportation California, groups that strive to ensure adequate resources are available for our state and federal highway systems.

Jim Waltze has served for the past two years as vice president and senior vice president for Associated General Contractors of America, and he will be installed on March 12 as the chairman of the national group. The contractors of California are proud to be represented by one of their own this year.

Mr. Speaker, the general contractors of America build our highways and airports, ports and dams, our military installations, government buildings and skyscrapers. Their dedication to excellence has helped our nation be the world's leader in quality construction, indeed in our quality of life. Visionary leaders like Jim Waltze continue to push the drive for excellence and innovation that will keep America the world leader into the future. Please join me in congratulating him and wishing him well as he takes the reins of the Associated General Contractors of America.

#### EMPLOYER SUPPORT OF THE GUARD AND RESERVE

#### HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enormous contribution to America's continuing freedom that is provided by employers who support our "citizen soldiers" in the Guard and Reserve.

In today's perilous world, each of us knows that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance. The men and women of America's Guard and Reserve are the vanguard of that vigilance. They are clerks and cashiers, merchants and mechanics, doctors and lawyers. Most importantly, they are our friends and neighbors, our sons, daughters, fathers and mothers.

They represent the best among us. Along with the full-time members of our armed services, those volunteers help ensure that we all have the fullest opportunity to exercise the liberties for which generations of American heroes have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, in recent months we all have seen National Guard and Reserve units from our own states and districts called to active duty for the war on terrorism. We all have heard the public declarations of support for those activated troops and the families they leave behind. But the true measure of that support lies not in words but in actions. And there is no greater comfort for our Guard and Reserve personnel than the certainty that they will be able to return to their civilian jobs when they come home, and that their loved ones will continue receiving the benefits of that employment while they are gone.

The employers who provide those assurances, who guarantee the jobs and benefits of

America's Guard and Reserve personnel, should be counted among the heroes of the war on terrorism. They are shouldering an important part of the burden of defending our homeland from those who envy and despise us for the freedom to choose liberty, tolerance and diversity. America is blessed with employers who have the foresight to understand the great value of having a force of trained and qualified personnel ready to answer their nation's call to arms with the sure knowledge that they are appreciated and financially protected.

So I encourage my colleagues to join me, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing and applauding the essential role played by employer support of the Guard and Reserve, and the invaluable service they provide to the men and women who bear the weight of battle. The Three Star program launched by Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve committees across the country is one way to acknowledge the understanding and support of those employers who are enabling a new generation of American heroes to go into harm's way unencumbered by concerns for their families' financial well-being. They deserve our patronage, and our thanks.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ANNE HEPP

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to pay tribute today to Anne Hepp, a woman from my district who supplies an invaluable service as the Spanish language interpreter for the Montrose and Delta County Colorado courts. The honesty and integrity Anne brings to her job is matched only by the commitment and skill she brings to making sure that accurate and complete communications flow between the court and Spanish-speaking defendants. It is my pleasure to take this opportunity and thank Anne for the significant contributions she makes to her community and state.

The daughter of a French high school teacher, Anne's interest in linguistics began at an early age. Having many friends who spoke Spanish, Anne studied the language in middle and high school, even participating as a foreign exchange student in Mexico. With the large number of Spanish-speaking citizens in her community, Anne knew she could use her language skills to become an interpreter. Her great skills and dedication to the judicial system has earned high praise from judges, attorneys, and most especially the defendants she assists.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear Anne provides a vital service to her community and the judicial system, and I would like to recognize her contributions before this body of Congress and this nation today. I thank Anne for her continuing efforts and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

#### REGARDING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ON GAY MARRIAGE

#### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, as Congress moves to consider a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, I would like to take this opportunity to submit for the RECORD the following letter from a constituent of mine, whose words and sentiments are echoed by millions of Americans throughout the country. Though this letter was addressed to the members of the Massachusetts State Legislature, I believe the passion and conviction this mother has for the rights and privileges of her children, and her gay son in particular, is extremely relevant to the debate that we may soon have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

FEBRUARY 21, 2004.

Members of the Massachusetts Legislature,  
*State House, Boston, MA.*

DEAR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES: I am the mother of four children. Our family values are evidenced by the concern they have for each other's well being. They are so alike in thought and deed that it continues to amaze me. They are outstanding, productive members of society and I am equally proud of all of them. However, passage of this discriminatory constitutional amendment will forbid my gay son from enjoying the same rights and privileges as his brother and sisters.

I implore you to vote no.  
Sincerely,

ELSIE FRANK.

Thank you Mr. Speaker and I urge all of my colleagues to heed the words of Mrs. Frank.

#### AN INDECENT ATTACK ON THE FIRST AMENDMENT

#### HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, we will soon debate the "Broadcast Indecency Act of 2004" on the House floor. This atrocious piece of legislation should be defeated. It cannot improve the moral behavior of U.S. citizens, but it can do irreparable harm to our cherished right to freedom of speech.

This attempt at regulating and punishing indecent and sexually provocative language suggests a comparison to the Wahhabi religious police of Saudi Arabia, who control the "Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice." Though both may be motivated by the good intentions of improving moral behavior, using government force to do so is fraught with great danger and has no chance of success.

Regulating speech is a dangerous notion, and not compatible with the principles of a free society. The Founders recognized this, and thus explicitly prohibited Congress from making any laws that might abridge freedom of speech or of the press.

But we have in recent decades seen a steady erosion of this protection of free speech.

This process started years ago when an arbitrary distinction was made by the political left



between commercial and non-commercial speech, thus permitting government to regulate and censor commercial speech. Since only a few participated in commercial speech, few cared—and besides, the government was there to protect us from unethical advertisements. Supports of this policy failed to understand that anti-fraud laws and state laws could adequately deal with this common problem found in all societies.

Disheartening as it may be, the political left, which was supposed to care more about the first amendment than the right, has ventured in recent years to curtail so-called “hate speech” by championing political correctness. In the last few decades we’ve seen the political-correctness crowd, in the name of improving personal behavior and language, cause individuals to lose their jobs, cause careers to be ruined, cause athletes to be trashed, and cause public speeches on liberal campuses to be disrupted and even banned. These tragedies have been caused by the so-called champions of free speech. Over the years, tolerance for the views of those with whom campus liberals disagree has nearly evaporated. The systematic and steady erosion of freedom of speech continues.

Just one year ago we saw a coalition of both left and right push through the radical Campaign Finance Reform Act, which strictly curtails the rights of all Americans to speak out against particular candidates at the time of elections.

Amazingly, this usurpation by Congress was upheld by the Supreme Court, which showed no concern for the restrictions on political speech during political campaigns. Instead of admitting that money and corruption in government is not a consequence of too much freedom of expression, but rather a result of government acting outside the bounds of the Constitution, this new law addressed a symptom rather than the cause of special interest control of our legislative process.

And now comes the right’s attack on the first amendment, with its effort to stamp out “indecent” language on the airways. And it will be assumed that if one is not with them in this effort, then one must support the trash seen and heard in the movie theaters and on our televisions and radios. For social rather than constitutional reasons, some on the left express opposition to this proposal.

But this current proposal is dangerous. Since most Americans—I hope—are still for freedom of expression of political ideas and religious beliefs, no one claims that anyone who endorses freedom of speech therefore endorses the nutty philosophy and religious views that are expressed. We should all know that the first amendment was not written to protect non-controversial mainstream speech, but rather the ideas and beliefs of what the majority see as controversial or fringe.

The temptation has always been great to legislatively restrict rudeness, prejudice, and minority views, and it’s easiest to start by attacking the clearly obnoxious expressions that most deem offensive. The real harm comes later. But “later” is now approaching.

The failure to understand that radio, TV, and movies more often than not reflect the peoples’ attitudes prompts this effort. It was never law that prohibited moral degradation in earlier times. It was the moral standards of the people who rejected the smut that is now routine entertainment. Merely writing laws and threat-

ening huge fines will not improve the moral standards of the people. Laws like the proposed “Broadcast Indecency Act of 2004” merely address the symptom of a decaying society, while posing a greater threat to freedom of expression. Laws may attempt to silence the bigoted and the profane, but the hearts and minds of those individuals will not be changed. Societal standards will not be improved. Government has no control over these standards, and can only undermine liberty in its efforts to make individuals more moral or the economy fairer.

Proponents of using government authority to censor certain undesirable images and comments on the airwaves resort to the claim that the airways belong to all the people, and therefore it’s the government’s responsibility to protect them. The mistake of never having privatized the radio and TV airwaves does not justify ignoring the first amendment mandate that “Congress shall make no law abridging freedom of speech.” When everyone owns something, in reality nobody owns it. Control then occurs merely by the whims of the politicians in power. From the very start, licensing of radio and TV frequencies invited government censorship that is no less threatening than that found in totalitarian societies.

We should not ignore the smut and trash that has invaded our society, but laws like this will not achieve the goals that many seek. If a moral society could be created by law, we would have had one a long time ago. The religious fundamentalists in control of other countries would have led the way. Instead, authoritarian violence reigns in those countries.

If it is not recognized that this is the wrong approach to improve the quality of the airways, a heavy price will be paid. The solution to decaying moral standards has to be voluntary, through setting examples in our families, churches, and communities—never by government coercion. It just doesn’t work.

But the argument is always that the people are in great danger if government does not act by: (a) Restricting free expression in advertising; (b) claiming insensitive language hurts people, and political correctness guidelines are needed to protect the weak; (c) arguing that campaign finance reform is needed to hold down government corruption by the special interests; (d) banning indecency on the airways that some believe encourages immoral behavior.

If we accept the principle that these dangers must be prevented through coercive government restrictions on expression, it must logically follow that all dangers must be stamped out, especially those that are even more dangerous than those already dealt with. This principle is adhered to in all totalitarian societies. That means total control of freedom of expression of all political and religious views. This certainly was the case with the Soviets, the Nazis, the Cambodians, and the Chinese communists. And yet these governments literally caused the deaths of hundreds of millions of people throughout the 20th Century. This is the real danger, and if we’re in the business of protecting the people from all danger, this will be the logical next step.

It could easily be argued that this must be done, since political ideas and fanatical religious beliefs are by far the most dangerous ideas known to man. Sadly, we’re moving in that direction, and no matter how well intended the promoters of these limits on the

first amendment are, both on the left and the right, they nevertheless endorse the principle of suppressing any expressions of dissent if one chooses to criticize the government.

When the direct attack on political and religious views comes, initially it will be on targets that most will ignore, since they will be seen as outside the mainstream and therefore unworthy of defending—like the Branch Davidians or Lyndon LaRouche.

Rush Limbaugh has it right (at least on this one), and correctly fears the speech police. He states: “I’m in the free speech business,” as he defends Howard Stern and criticizes any government effort to curtail speech on the airways, while recognizing the media companies’ authority and responsibility to self regulate.

Congress has been a poor steward of the first amendment. This newest attack should alert us all to the dangers of government regulating freedom of speech—of any kind.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ELLEN ROBERTS

#### HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Ellen Roberts for her selfless dedication to the community of Durango, Colorado, and congratulate her on being recognized by the Durango Chamber of Commerce as their 2003 Athena Award Winner. The Athena Award is presented to a woman each year who has shown a commitment to helping other women realize their business goals. Ellen could not be a more worthy recipient. It is a privilege to pay tribute to Ellen for her well-deserved award, and her ongoing efforts to better her community today.

Ellen’s interest in community service can be traced back to her college days where she created her own major at Cornell University in environmental policy. Since Ellen moved to Durango, in 1981, she has been actively involved in the community. Her involvement includes serving as Chairman of the Mercy Medical Center Board of Directors; and on the board for the First National Bank of Durango; and sitting on the Citizens Health Advisory Council; and sitting on the Citizens Steering Committee for a New Library.

It is my privilege to recognize Ellen before this body of Congress and this nation for the recognition she received by the Durango Chamber of Commerce as the Athena Award Winner. She has done much to improve the lives of her community and I wish her continuing success in all her endeavors.

#### FRED DOWNS, JIM MAYER NAMED DAILY POINTS OF LIGHT AWARD WINNERS

#### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, on March 1, the Points of Light Foundation singled out two career employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for recognition as a Daily Point of

Light. I know of no individuals more deserving of the honor than Fred Downs and Jim Mayer, each a remarkable success story.

Both men were profoundly injured in Vietnam. Mr. Downs lost his left arm; Mr. Mayer lost both legs below the knee. Both were scarred by shrapnel and multiple surgeries. Their stories could have ended there. Instead, they turned their lives and their work into encouragement and inspiration for other veterans and for all who know them.

Mr. Downs and Mr. Mayer have long volunteered to work with those who have suffered traumatic injury in service to their country. Their service began during the 1991 Gulf War. They heard news reports that Saddam Hussein had dispersed a million land mines to maim and kill coalition forces if they invaded Iraq. They strategized to figure how they could best help the wounded, utilizing their own experiences and recoveries and recalling when they most needed someone with whom to talk.

Mr. Downs and Mr. Mayer organized field trips, picnics and hosted backyard barbecues for the injured from the Gulf War. After the war was over, the team continued visiting service members injured in training accidents or deployments. They keep in touch with many of the patients they have met. Twenty-two of the 58 wounded soldiers Mr. Mayer met during the Gulf War showed up at his house for a July 4th barbecue in 1996 for a five-year reunion. He and Mr. Downs also attend the annual National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic, where they meet with and counsel veterans.

As American troops began the build-up for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Mr. Downs and Mr. Mayer met with military surgeons at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. They shared their insights into traumatic injuries and talked to them about how they felt when they were injured. The pair also discussed how they thought the medical staff could help the wounded soldiers. They have continued to share their stories with servicemen and women who have similar injuries, who come to realize there is life after amputation. Since April 2003, the pair has visited more than 60 amputee soldiers at Walter Reed and the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, as volunteer amputee peer visitors.

The following article from VA's in-house magazine, *Vanguard*, discusses what these two gentlemen are doing to help the young men and women returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

#### MESSAGES OF HOPE

With their Kevlar body armor and rapid access to medical treatment, soldiers wounded in Operation Iraqi Freedom are surviving what were once fatal injuries. One day they're busting down doors in Baghdad and the next they're lying in a hospital bed with busted-up limbs.

"When you first see them, they're still confused and can't seem to comprehend the magnitude of what happened to them," explained Frederick Downs Jr., VA's chief of prosthetics, describing his visits to wounded troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., which has received almost 300 battlefield casualties from the war in Iraq.

Downs knows exactly what they're going through. As a 23-year-old lieutenant with the Army's 4th Infantry Division, he was nearly killed when he stepped on a "Bouncing Betty" land mine on Jan. 11, 1968, near Chu

Lai, Vietnam. He survived the blast, but lost his left arm above the elbow. Now, more than 30 years later, he shares his story with soldiers who have similar injuries. "I want them to understand there is life after amputation," Downs said.

#### A SIMPLE MOTIVE

Since April, Downs and Jim Mayer, director of Leadership VA, have visited more than 60 wounded soldiers at Walter Reed and National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., as volunteer amputee peer visitors. Their motive is simple, according to Mayer, who lost both legs to a land mine on April 25, 1969, while serving with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam. "If you've been through an amputation and you see others who are experiencing that trauma, you just want to help them in any way you can," he said.

Their efforts began during the 1991 Gulf War after hearing news reports that Saddam Hussein had dispersed a million land mines to maim and kill coalition forces if they invaded Iraq. "We were concerned there were going to be a lot of casualties and we wanted to do something to help," Mayer recalled. The question was, how could they best help the wounded?

Mayer found the answer when a friend asked if he could remember a particular turning point during his recovery at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio. "I remember a former patient who came to visit us one day, it was just a chance encounter. He lost both arms and had these prosthetic hooks. I was mesmerized because I realized he had a life," he said.

The encounter provided hope for his own future, something he said severely wounded soldiers rarely have. "After a traumatic injury, you live hour to hour, day to day and you tend to block out the future. At first you put your hope on the shelf because hope is too far in the future."

And so it was that Mayer, Downs and about a dozen other Vietnam veterans, many who worked for VA, started visiting wounded soldiers and sharing their stories of overcoming traumatic injury. During the first Gulf War, Mayer estimated he volunteered about 800 hours at military hospitals. He organized field trips, picnics and hosted backyard barbecues. He also started bringing milkshakes on each visit, leading patients to nickname him "the milkshake man."

#### UNFORGETTABLE STORIES

The group dwindled after the war, but Mayer and Downs continued visiting servicemembers injured in training accidents or deployments. Some of the stories are hard to forget. There was the soldier injured on the train to Bosnia when electricity arced from a cable to his helmet and blew off his legs. There was the Ranger who broke his back when he fell out of the Black Hawk helicopter during the 1993 raid in Mogadishu. And there was the sailor who lost his legs when he got tangled in a rope trying to rescue a shipmate and was dragged through a porthole.

Mayer keeps in touch with many of the patients he's met over the years. Twenty-two of the 58 wounded soldiers he met during the first Gulf War showed up at his house for a July 4th barbecue in 1996 for their five-year reunion. He sees others at two of VA's National Rehabilitation Special Events—the National Veterans Wheelchair Games and the National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic. Some even come to his April 25 "Alive Day" celebrations, an event he has held every year since 1970 to mark the day he almost died.

#### THE EMOTIONAL SIDE OF INJURY

As American troops began the build-up for Operation Iraqi Freedom, Mayer and Downs,

along with their buddy Jack Farley, a Vietnam veteran and amputee who serves as a judge with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, expanded their volunteer role by meeting with military surgeons at Walter Reed to share their insights into traumatic injury. "We talked about how we felt when we were injured and how we thought the medical staff could help the wounded soldiers," said Mayer.

Dr. Artie Shelton, a retired Army colonel who commanded a field hospital in Somalia and now works as a consultant in VA's transplant program, helped arrange the meeting. He said the Army physicians are extremely qualified and well trained, but they may not fully understand the emotional and psychological complexities of traumatic injury. "The doctors know the medical side, but Jim and Fred can tell them about the full impact and repercussion on these soldiers," Shelton said.

Among the aspects of recovery Downs stresses are encouraging the soldiers to do things on their own. "Never tell a guy he can't do something," he said. "You need to encourage him to try, to test himself and see what he can do. It speeds up their psychological healing and helps them get back into life again."

If they have doubts about what they can accomplish, Downs tells them about his own life after injury: going to school, getting married, starting a family, writing three books, and leading VA's multimillion-dollar prosthetic and sensory aids service.

He also has gained international recognition for helping establish land mine survivor programs in several countries. The U.S. Agency for International Development recently asked for his assistance with a land mine eradication program in Afghanistan. (To learn more about his recovery and land mine eradication efforts, visit the Center for Defense Information Web site at [www.cdi.org/adm/1250/Downs.html](http://www.cdi.org/adm/1250/Downs.html).)

Mayer and Downs volunteer because they've been there and because they care. But also because they want to bring a little dignity to American troops who suffer traumatic injuries.

"Vietnam vets, to put it politely, never actually felt welcomed home," said Mayer. "But these guys coming back from Iraq, we're going to welcome them home and become their friends, help them reconcile their injuries, and bring them a little dignity."

Mr. Speaker, the selflessness, compassion and humanity of Fred Downs and Jim Mayer—all the more profound considering their own experiences—have been important to the young men and women recently injured in service and frightened about what such traumatic change can mean in their lives and how they can overcome it. I know my colleagues join me in expressing our gratitude and respect for their good works.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO ROBERT HARTH

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise to pay tribute to the memory and life of Robert Harth. Robert's gift and legacy to Colorado will be the Aspen Music Festival and School, which he deftly guided for twelve years as president and chief executive officer. His recent and all-too sudden death at

age forty-seven is a great loss to music lovers worldwide, but those who knew him will not forget the joy and zest he had for life.

Robert was a natural leader who brought success and renown to the organizations he directed. In his early twenties, he served as vice president and general manager for the Los Angeles Philharmonic. By the time he was thirty-three, he took over the AMFS as president, and switched it from a fledgling event to one of the premier cultural festivals in the country. Most recently, he served as artistic director for Carnegie Hall, adding a new venue for more progressive performances.

During his twelve years with AMFS, Robert quadrupled the size of its endowment. This allowed for his undertaking the building of the Harris Hall and the Benedict Music Hall. He also established the American Academy of Conductors at Aspen, which provides opportunities for up and coming conductors from around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Robert Harth's death is a great loss to the Aspen community and for music lovers worldwide. It is my honor to pay tribute before this body of Congress and this nation to the life and legacy of Robert Harth.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SARAH  
SWORDS ON RECEIVING THE  
MARY P. OENSLAGER SCHOLASTIC  
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate one of this years Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Award winners, Sarah Swords, who I am proud to say attended Princeton University in my district. The award is presented annually to college seniors who are blind and who have demonstrated leadership, scholarship, enterprise, and service to others.

Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic is a non-profit organization based in Princeton, which has as its sole mission opening the pages of books to all people who cannot read standard print because of visual, perceptual or other physical disability.

Mr. Speaker, over the years RFB&D has worked hard to live up to the philosophy of its founder, Anne T. Macdonald, who believed strongly that "education is a right, not a privilege." Currently Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic has almost 240,000 titles available to its members worldwide. I commend Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic on the wonderful work they do, and I am so honored that they are located within my district.

Mr. Speaker, it is my great privilege today to congratulate Sarah Swords one of the 2003 Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Award winners. Having lost her sight when she was in the sixth grade due to a serious illness, Sara was fortunate enough to join Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic.

With the audiotapes RFB&D provided to her, Sarah was finally able to enjoy reading for the first time. "At last, I could read all the books I had always wanted to read" she recalls. "All the classics, novels, poetry and even magazines. I ordered a plethora of lit-

erature and have kept right on reading countless books." Sarah entered Princeton University in 1999 after finishing first in her class at Stoneman Douglas High School. During her time at Princeton University, Sarah was a member of student government, served as vice president of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, volunteered at the University Crisis Ministry, and helped out at the Trenton Animal Shelter. Sarah also worked as an advocate and speaker for disability rights for the Nassau Club, Princeton Alumni Organization.

Mr. Speaker, Sarah is a wonderful person whose talents and leadership have blossomed despite her disability. She is a role model for others in her community and a gifted scholar. I am so glad that through the good work of Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic Sarah Swords will continue to be able to make significant contributions to our country and to the world. She is a wonderful example of why RFB&D motto, that "education is a right, not a privilege," is an essential truth.

Again Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Sarah Swords upon being selected as one of the 2003 Mary P. Oenslager Scholastic Achievement Award winners and I wish her the best in all that the future holds for her.

TAKING CARE OF OUR VETERANS

**HON. DAVE CAMP**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a very important issue to me, and to the veterans in my district. As you may know, the Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission recently issued its report to Secretary Principi. While the goal of the CARES Commission is to improve the health care services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to our veteran population, I do not believe this report takes into account the legitimate concerns expressed by veterans in my District.

Specifically, the CARES proposal calls for the closure of acute medical care beds at the Aleda E. Lutz Medical Center in Saginaw, Michigan. The loss of these beds would be detrimental to level of care provided in the region.

Veterans in the northern portion of the Lower Peninsula of Michigan currently have only one VA facility that is accessible to them for inpatient care, the Saginaw VA Hospital. For veterans traveling from the rural portions of Michigan, getting to Saginaw can already be a difficult task. If the proposal is put into place, veterans seeking immediate care will face an unnecessary strain of two hours worth of additional travel.

I certainly understand that the VA is undergoing a change and trying to better fit its facilities with veterans' needs. However, it must do so in a manner that does not establish new barriers for veterans seeking care. Every remedy we propose must ensure that veterans know exactly where to go when they need medical care. Simply put, the solution cannot be worse than the problem. The VA hospital system was established to provide veterans, who have made great sacrifices for this country, with direct access to the care they deserve. We must not back down from that promise.

Veterans have come to rely on the services they receive at the Saginaw hospital, and they should not have to give that up. They have given enough already for this country, and I am unwilling to ask them for more.

I want to be clear: improvements can be and need to be made. Alternatives such as contracting with local hospitals is a promising solution. I also believe we need to pass H.R. 2379, the Rural Veterans Access to Care Act, introduced by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and a bill I am a proud to co-sponsor.

This legislation directs the Secretary of VA to ensure at least five percent of the funds for Medical Care are used to improve access to medical services for highly rural or geographically remote veterans. It also allows VA approved veterans to enroll in a program that gives them access to routine health care from a local provider.

In closing, I would like to commend the administration for their dedication to working with this Congress to improve health care for our veterans. The reform of government and the services it provides is a thankless task, but one that is necessary for the well being of this nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MAYOR  
WAYNE R. BROWN

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise to pay tribute to the life and memory of Marble, Colorado Mayor Wayne Brown who passed away recently at the age of seventy-six. Wayne was a true American patriot, and a beloved friend and colleague to many in his Colorado community. In his years spent in public service, Wayne embodied the ideals of integrity and courage that we, as Americans, have come to expect from our public servants. As his family and community mourn his passing, I believe it is appropriate to recognize the life of this exceptional man, and his many contributions to his community, state and country.

Mayor Brown lived an immensely rich and full life, always holding firm to his beliefs in serving his community and country. He worked for the Colorado Highway Department before he retired to Marble in 1983, where he served on the town board and later as mayor. His expertise in construction projects through his time spent with the Highway Department came to good use as mayor. Mayor Brown saw that the town had two needed bridges built across the Carbonate Creek and Crystal River, and most recently obtained the funding to pave the main road through town.

Mr. Brown's commitment to Marble extended to his involvement with numerous civic organizations. He was an active member of the Marble Community Church, the Association of State Highway and Transportation Organizations, the Colorado Mental Health Association, and the Elks Lodge.

Mr. Speaker, we are all at a great loss because of Mayor Brown's passing, but can be comforted in knowing he helped make Marble a better place for future generations. I would like to extend my heartfelt sorrow to his children, David, Daniel, Joseph, and Teresa; his

grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Mayor Brown's selfless dedication to Marble, the State of Colorado, and the United States has helped ensure a promising future for our great country and I am deeply honored to bring his life to the attention of this body of Congress and this nation. I am proud to have known such a great man who enriched the lives of his family, community and nation.

#### RECOGNIZING RABBI JAY STEIN

##### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rabbi Jay Stein, the newly installed Rabbi at Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, Pennsylvania.

Rabbi Jay M. Stern received his ordination, an M.A. in Jewish Education and a B.A. in Jewish Philosophy from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In addition, he received a B.A., Sociology from Columbia University. From 1990–1991, he served as an Alef-Alef Fellow in Jewish Education at Tel Aviv University. In 1993, Rabbi Stein was awarded The Lowenfeld Prize in Practical Theology from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. In 1995, Rabbi Stein was named a Wexner Rabbinic Fellow. He served as Rabbi at Temple Beth Ahm and currently serves as Senior Rabbi of Har Zion Temple in Penn Valley, Pennsylvania. He is also the Vice President of and has written the constitution for, the New Jersey Region of the Rabbinical Assembly. He has co-published articles on the subject of domestic violence in the Rabbinical Assembly Newsletter and Outlook Magazine, as well as authored a chapter in the Resource Guide for Rabbis on Domestic Violence published by Jewish Women International. Rabbi Stein serves as a national consultant in the area of Jewish supplemental high school education, as well as the Rabbinic Advisor to the Israel's Ministry of Tourism. Currently, he heads up a regional think tank for rabbis serving as spiritual leaders in Solomon Schechter Day Schools, and is a certified counselor in chemical dependence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues join me today in recognizing Rabbi Jay Stein and wish him the best of luck in his new position.

#### IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF MR. RICHARD HART AND PROJECT WELD

##### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mr. Richard Hart—teacher, mentor, guide and source of strength and inspiration for countless young men and women at Max S. Hayes Vocational High School.

Mr. Hart, a Certified Welding Educator, created Project WELD several years ago, intent on energizing the school's welding program. The acronym stands for Worthy Employment, Leadership Development—which is exactly

what students take away from the program. Mr. Hart is so deeply committed to this project that he initiated the program on his own personal time, using his own personal funds.

Project WELD provides students with a real insight and understanding into the profession of welding by bringing industry employees and employers into the classroom. Additionally, students are exposed to the latest in welding technology through funds and equipment donated from local welding companies. Beyond his scholastic and professional contributions, awards and accolades, Mr. Hart's greatest accomplishment continues to be the impression he makes on his students, through his method of teaching by example that offers each student the promise of a bright future.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mr. Richard Hart, whose leadership, commitment and belief in the students at Max S. Hayes Vocational High School continues to uplift the lives of countless students.

#### TRIBUTE TO PEDRO PIETRI

##### HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and work of Pedro Pietri, a fine Puerto Rican poet, who passed away on March 3, 2004, just weeks short of his 60th birthday.

Pedro was born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on March 21, 1944. He moved to Harlem in New York at the age of 3. Under the influence of his aunt, Irene Rodriguez, Pedro became very interested in poetry and as a teenager began to compose his own poems. After graduating from high school, Pedro worked a variety of jobs before being drafted. He served in a light infantry brigade in Vietnam. His experience in this war, he claimed, further radicalized his beliefs. Upon his return, he began to seriously pursue his interest in poetry in order to address the social ills that plagued not only his community but America as a whole.

In 1969, a Puerto Rican activist organization named the Young Lords briefly took control of the church Pedro attended as a child. It was during this takeover that Pedro gave the first public reading of what has arguably become his most notable poem, "Puerto Rican Obituary".

Juan, Miguel, Milagros, Olga, Manuel  
All died yesterday, today and will die again  
tomorrow passing their bill collectors  
on to the next of kin

All died waiting for the garden of eden to  
open up again under a new manage-  
ment

All died dreaming about america . . .

This powerful poem, published in 1973, traces the lives of five Puerto Ricans who came to the mainland hoping to fulfill their dreams of a better life, but whose dreams soon become nightmares as they found themselves shut out of America's economic opportunities and lifestyle. All of Pedro's works, though at times humorous, contain a powerful political message.

Mr. Speaker, Pedro was not special because he was a gifted writer, he was special because he used his gift to inspire his commu-

nity to rise above the oppression they had endured. In his countless poems and plays Pedro defined the Nuyorican (Puerto Rican New Yorkers) experience, inspiring a new generation of Nuyorican poets to take up the cause he dedicated his life to. In addition, his works have inspired poets of oppressed peoples in the United States and abroad since the 1960's.

Pedro's publications include *Illusions of a Revolving Door: Plays* (1992), *The Masses are Asses* (1984), *Traffic Violations* (1983), *Lost in the Museum of Natural History* (1980), *Invisible Poetry* (1979), and *Puerto Rican Obituary* (1973). His work has also been included in anthologies such as *The Prentice Hall Anthology of Latino Literature* (ed. Eduardo del Rio, 2002); *The Outlaw Bible of American Poetry* (ed. Alan Kaufman, 2000), *The Latino Reader* (eds. Harold Augenbraum and Margarite Fernandez Olmos, 1997), *Inventing a Word: An Anthology of Twentieth-Century Puerto Rican Poetry* (ed. Julio Marzan, 1980), and *The United States of Poetry*. He was the recipient of several New York State Creative Arts in Public Service grants and a grant from the New York Foundation for the Arts.

Mr. Speaker, for his invaluable contribution to American literature and his commitment to addressing issues of great importance to our nation; I ask that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to Pedro Pietri.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, March 2nd, and Wednesday, March 3rd, I was on official government travel in Libya and missed several votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 32, 33, 34, 35, 36 and 37.

#### CONDOLENCES ON TERRORIST ATTACK AGAINST SPAIN

##### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sincere sadness at the extreme loss of life suffered today by the people of Spain after the worst terrorist attack in that nation's history. The people of central New Jersey know what it feels like to lose loved ones to an act of terrorism. We lost so many of our neighbors on the attacks of September 11, 2001. On behalf of my constituents, I stand now in solidarity with the people of Spain.

We are reminded by today's carnage that senseless acts of terror continue to afflict innocent people around the world whether they live in Madrid, Istanbul, New York, or Baghdad. We are reminded today that no nation is immune to the threat of terrorism.

I hope that today's attack will send a signal to all of us that we must remain vigilant in the face of terrorism and that we must continue to work closely with all nations around the world

to destroy Al-Qaeda and its terrorist allies. We cannot avoid the thought that this attack happened because Spain offered assistance to the U.S. in fighting terrorists around the world.

I'm sure the U.S. Government will offer whatever assistance it can to help the Spanish people who are suffering and to find and arrest the savage culprits of this crime.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
WINIFRED MARY "MA" DUNCAN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of my dear friend, Winifred Mary "Ma" Duncan—devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, friend, mentor and community activist, whose life deeply affected the lives of countless individuals, including my own.

Mrs. Duncan was an unwavering source of strength for her family, as she raised and supported seven children on her own. Armed with a strong sense of determination, faith, and inner resolve, Mrs. Duncan faced the challenges of single parenthood with grace and focus, and was a consistently loving role model for her children, and for all the children in the neighborhood.

Beyond caring for her family, Mrs. Duncan remarkably found the time and energy to volunteer within the community. In the late sixties and seventies, she served as a Council Member for the City of Valley View. During that time, she delivered Christmas and Easter baskets to families in need. Throughout the seventies and eighties, Mrs. Duncan served as a member of the Board of Directors of the Merrick House Settlement and the Tremont Free Clinic. For the past 30 years, Mrs. Duncan was an active member of the St. Augustine Parish Council, St. Augustine Hunger Council, St. Augustine Seniors, St. Vincent DePaul Society and the Cleveland Catholic Blind Community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Winifred Mary "Ma" Duncan. As we deeply mourn her passing, we also joyously celebrate her life. "Ma" Duncan built a foundation of love and security for her children, and for the world around her. Her sense of charity, love for others and giving nature encircled her family, encircled the neighborhood, and uplifted our entire community. I offer my deepest condolences to her children: Valerie, Charles, James, Wayne, Gerald, Kathleen and Rosemary; and to her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and to her extended family and many friends. The wondrous affect on the lives she touched is immeasurable, and "Ma" Duncan's beautiful legacy—a legacy reflecting giving, compassion and love, will live on forever within the memory and heart of everyone who knew and loved her well. The way "Ma" Duncan lived her life has given light to our community and has raised our corner of the world to a better place.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY PVT. BRYAN  
NICHOLAS SPRY

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Army Pvt. Bryan Nicholas Spry, a national hero who paid the ultimate price for his country on February 14 in Baghdad, Iraq. This brave, 19-year-old soldier from Maryland's Eastern Shore, fresh out of basic training, had been in Iraq just over a month when he died.

Bryan was born in Wilmington, Delaware, and raised in Chestertown, Maryland, in Kent County on the Eastern Shore. I had the privilege of knowing him personally and found him to be a friendly, gregarious young man who loved the outdoors, baseball and the idea of being a soldier.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of February 13, Bryan attempted to drive his Humvee across a bridge which collapsed, dumping the vehicle into the water said Bryan's mother, Mrs. Beverly Couch Fabri. Three of the Humvee's passengers got out and swam to safety. But Bryan was unconscious when they pulled him out of the murky water. His lungs were filled with water. He died the next day, Valentine's Day, in a field hospital in Baghdad.

As a boy growing up on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake Bay, he idolized his older brother, Michael, a professional baseball player. Michael plays right field for the River City Rascals, a St. Louis area club that competes in the independent Frontier League. The two boys and their father often went deer hunting together. But instead of shooting the animals with a gun, Bryan preferred to shoot them with his camera. On one of those hunting excursions, when his brother was about to pull the trigger on his target, he saved the deer's life by scaring it off, his mother recalled. "After that, his brother didn't take him along [on hunts] for a very long time," Fabri said.

Mr. Speaker, I am told that both of Bryan's grandfathers fought in World War II, and growing up he loved to run in the woods, playing army with his brother and friends. As a child he decorated his bedroom with GI Joe action figures, said one his boyhood friends. Bryan attended Kent County High School where he was an outfielder on the baseball team. Twenty-one days after he graduated from high school, he made good on his dream to become a soldier, shipping off to basic training at Fort Benning, Georgia. After successfully concluding his training, he was detached to the 82nd Airborne Division's Company D, 1st Battalion, 504th Infantry, based at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.

On Friday, February 20, visitation was held for Bryan at the Fellows, Helfenbein and Newnam Funeral Home in his hometown of Chestertown. A memorial was also held that night at Mear's Great Oak Landing, a waterfront complex in Chestertown, with money raised from a silent auction and raffle to go into a fund in his name that will help military families. How fitting!

Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. on Saturday in the auditorium at Kent County High School in Worton. Bryan was laid to rest with full military honors at St. James United Methodist Church Cemetery, a final tribute to

a paratrooper who, colleagues said, understood the meaning of duty and sacrifice. Major Marvin Luckie, deputy division chaplain for the 82nd Airborne read from the 23rd Psalm and from the lyrics to "Taps." As the chaplain finished reading the psalm and a 21-gun salute broke the quiet, an honor guard slowly folded the flag and presented it to his weeping mother.

"In life, he honored the flag," Luckie said. "In death, the flag will honor him."

On Wednesday, February 25 paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division held a memorial service in Iraq to remember him.

Mr. Speaker, the number of fallen heroes emerging from the war in Iraq, unfortunately, continues to grow. Our brave men and women who risk their lives daily are national treasures. I ask my colleagues to join me today in commemorating one of these treasured heroes; Army Pvt. Bryan Nicholas Spry.

CONGRATULATING THE ROCH-  
ESTER HIGH SCHOOL "LADY ZE-  
BRAS" ON THEIR INDIANA CLASS  
2A GIRLS STATE BASKETBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**HON. CHRIS CHOCOLA**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. CHOCOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Rochester High School Lady Zebras on their Indiana High School Athletic Association Girls Basketball Class 2A state championship.

When the final horn sounded on Saturday, March 6, at the Conesco Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, Indiana, over 9,000 fans witnessed the young women of Rochester High School's girls basketball team win their first ever state championship over Heritage Christian 51 to 40. As a team, the Lady Zebras set championship game marks for free throws made (25), free throws attempted (28) and free throw percentage (89). It was the Zebras' 14th consecutive victory. Their state championship win leaves Rochester at an impressive 25 and 2 mark for the year.

I would like to acknowledge Coach Tony Stesiek and Assistant Coaches Katie Felke, Jason Snyder, Stacy Stesiak, Andrea Milliser and Randy Wynn on an exceptional season.

On behalf of the citizens of the Second Congressional District, I would like to congratulate all of the players including seniors Lindsey Dishman, Courtney Felke, Jamie Fornal, Brooke Riddle, Aubry Roe, juniors Randall Heyde, Morgan Thomas, sophomores Ryleigh Carr, Jenna Easterday, Kendra Howard, and freshmen Lesley Cox, Cassie Greives and Bethany Sewell.

Student managers Lindsey Helstern, Ali Hunt and Stephen Williams and Athletic Training student Lindsey Bright also deserve a special congratulation.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize senior Courtney Felke. She was named the 2004 Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award winner for Class 2A. At the conclusion of the girls basketball state finals, the IHSAA Executive Committee presents the award to the outstanding senior in the state finals competition. Courtney's grit and determination to win this state title began four years ago when

she, along with the rest of the seniors, started shooting free throws in the mornings before school began. It paid off in Saturday's title game.

Mr. Speaker, I know that everyone in Fulton County, Indiana, from Principal Dennis Eller, Assistant Principal Steven Lyng and Athletic Director Mark Miller, to every one of their parents, is extremely proud of these young women.

Again, I would like to congratulate the Rochester High School girls basketball team on winning their first-ever state basketball championship.

#### INDIA REPUBLIC DAY

### HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the people of India on their 55th celebration of Republic Day. It was on this day in 1950 that India adopted its Constitution and became a modern sovereign state. Enshrined in that constitution are the same ideals of equality for all citizens, universal suffrage for those over 18, and the freedoms of speech, association and religion that we hold dear in the United States.

I am pleased to represent central New Jersey's Indian Americans in the U.S. House of Representatives and to be a member of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans. It is with pleasure today that I express my praise for India's commitment to democracy.

India's struggle for independence cost many lives, but also united Indians of many peoples. We honor those, especially Mohandas Mahatma Gandhi, who struggled for India's independence. Gandhi's non-violent form of resistance has set an example to all of us around the world. Freedom can be achieved through peaceful protest. India's leaders are currently working to broker peace with Pakistan and I commend them for their efforts to end this horrible conflict through peaceful negotiations.

India adopted its Constitution and swore in its first president, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, only 894 days after the withdrawal of the British Empire's forces. Today, India can be proud to hold the title of the world's largest democracy as it prepares for upcoming elections in April.

When I made my first trip to India in 1977, it was just after the lifting of the Emergency. At the time, India was facing a challenge to its democratic institutions. As the Indian people proved later that year by voting out Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who had temporarily suspended the Indian Constitution during the Emergency period, they were resilient democrats.

I am always impressed with India for the remarkable dexterity with which its people make democracy work in a country of such incomparable diversity and size. The United States may be the world's oldest democracy, but India is by far the world's largest. I believe that the rest of the world, including the United States, has something to learn from India and its democratic accomplishments.

I am pleased to see India and the U.S. working so closely together. Each year for the past several years, U.S.-India relations have

advanced to higher and higher plateaus. India has been an outspoken supporter of our Nation's war on terror. India and her people have endured terrorist attacks and, like the American people, they are resolute in fighting against future threats.

In New Jersey, I have never felt too far away from India because I have the good fortune to have so many wonderful Indian-American neighbors. I look forward to continuing to represent the Indian American community of central New Jersey and to seeing India's democracy continue to flourish in the years to come.

#### IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF ALICIA G. JAQUILLARD

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Alicia G. Jaquillard—devoted wife, mother, grandmother, dedicated human services employee, and friend and mentor to many.

Mrs. Jaquillard was born in Puerto Rico, and eventually emigrated to America with her family. Her family was central to her life. She leaves behind her devoted husband, Marvin J. Jaquillard, and also her four stepsons. She was extremely close to her children and eight grandchildren—and will be deeply missed by her entire family.

Mrs. Jaquillard and her family moved to Toledo in 1972. She worked for the Lucas County Department of Human Service as a Food Stamp Officer. She performed her duties with integrity and compassion, and was held in high esteem by clients and colleagues. Mrs. Jaquillard possessed an incredible sense of humor, and had the rare ability to make others feel instantly comfortable and welcome.

Mrs. Jaquillard retired from public service in 1985, which enabled her to spend more time surrounded by family, and more time to pursue her favorite pastimes—cooking, traveling and music. She was an exceptional cook, and loved to share her culinary talents with family and friends by preparing a variety of traditional and contemporary Spanish dishes. She loved music, especially slow romantic songs and music of her Spanish heritage. Mr. and Mrs. Jaquillard were avid travelers. Together, they journeyed across America, Canada and Mexico.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mrs. Alicia Jaquillard—beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. I offer my deepest condolences to her entire family and to her entire circle of friends. Mrs. Jaquillard lived her life with great joy, love and energy—and her memory and spirit will be remembered forever by all who knew and loved her well.

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. JOE BARTON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 339) to prevent frivolous lawsuits against the manufacturers, distributors, or sellers of food or non-alcoholic beverage products that comply with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements:

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 339, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act. Personal responsibility—not frivolous lawsuits—is the appropriate way to deal with obesity issues.

As reported by the Judiciary Committee, however, H.R. 339 contained very broad language that could be read to include regulatory actions by at least two agencies within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce—the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). It is my understanding that it was not the intent of the authors to prohibit such lawsuits. Working with Chairman SENSENBRENNER, we then developed language that is included in the manager's amendment today that specifically exempts actions brought under the Federal Trade Commission Act or the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. There can be no question, then, that if this bill were signed into law, it would have no effect on regulatory or legal rights and responsibilities under these statutes.

I look forward to working with the Judiciary Committee as this legislation moves forward.

#### RECOGNIZING PEACE CORPS WEEK

### HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Peace Corps Week, which gives us the opportunity to honor and commemorate the 43rd anniversary of the Peace Corps. During this week, celebratory and educational events take place across the country to pay tribute to the Peace Corps' influence on communities in the United States and abroad. Thousands of Peace Corps volunteers speak in classrooms, Governors issue proclamations, and former and current Peace Corps staff honor the lasting legacy of the Peace Corps with their service. I would like to join these individuals in their tribute.

Since its inception in 1961, over 170,000 Peace Corps Volunteers have served in 137 countries to promote the Peace Corps' mission of world peace and friendship. Currently, over 7,500 Volunteers are serving in 71 countries around the world—the highest number of volunteers in the field in 28 years. In 2003 alone, the number of individuals applying to serve in the Peace Corps rose by 10 percent. With continued interest from both Americans

and host countries, the Peace Corps is well-positioned to continue to expand its ranks for many years to come.

The work of the Peace Corps has never been more relevant than it is today. Americans are interested in humanitarian service, and host countries are eager for our volunteers. Peace Corps volunteers share their time and talents by serving as teachers, business advisors, information technology consultants, health and HIV/AIDS educators, and youth and agriculture workers. These volunteers transfer life-changing knowledge and skills that are valued by the people of other nations. In its tenure this institution has become vital to the well-being of our country and to the international community.

During this week, we salute the men and women of this nation who selflessly serve abroad as Peace Corps Volunteers.

Recently, I had the opportunity to honor Sergeant Shiver, the organizer and first director of the Peace Corps. His lifelong service is only one shining example of the quality of individuals the Peace Corps recruits. He, as well as many other members of the Peace Corps, has shown that one dedicated individual can create positive change in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in support of National Peace Corps Week and honor past and present volunteers who carry out the Peace Corps' goals and who continue to empower people in developing and developed countries through their efforts.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, on March 9, 2004, this Member unavoidably missed three roll call votes. On all three votes, this Member would have voted "aye," had he been present. The three votes were: 1. Rollcall No. 42, passage of H. Res. 519, a resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the earthquake that occurred in San Luis Obispo County, California on December 22, 2003; 2. Rollcall No. 43, passage of H. Res. 392, a resolution congratulating the Detroit Shock for winning the 2003 Womens National Basketball Association championship; and 3. Rollcall No. 44, passage of H. Res. 475, congratulating the San Jose Earthquakes for winning the 2003 Major League Soccer Cup.

IN HONOR OF FATHER JOHN J. CREGAN

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute and recognition of Father John J. Cregan, Pastor of Our Lady of Angels Church of Cleveland, Ohio, as he is being honored for his significant outreach and committed service to the people of our Cleveland community.

For more than 40 years Father Cregan has served as a spiritual guide, healer and be-

loved mentor and friend to countless families and individuals. Since 1968, Father Cregan has served as a dedicated advocate of spirituality, faith and counsel to members of our safety forces. In his role as Catholic Chaplain for the Cleveland Police Department and the Fraternal Order of Police, and as Spiritual Director of the Greater Cleveland Police and Fire Society, he continues to provide direction, hope and comfort to the men and women who so bravely and selflessly serve our community.

Father Cregan's journey of service to others began with his ordination at St. John's Cathedral on May 20, 1961. His kind, compassionate and gentle nature has touched the lives of countless families and individuals in every parish he has served. For more than twenty years, Father Cregan led the congregation at Blessed Sacrament Parish, first as Assistant Pastor, then as Pastor. Father Cregan also served as Associate Pastor at St. Joseph Parish and St. Thomas More Parish. In 1987, Father Cregan was named Pastor of Our Lady of Angels Church in Cleveland, where he continues to today—providing solace and strength to this parish community.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude of Father John J. Cregan, whose compassion, commitment and energy continues to create a haven of assistance, hope and renewal for every member of Our Lady of Angels parish and for countless members of our safety forces. Father Cregan's vision, leadership, and love for others brings light, hope and possibility to Cleveland's West Park neighborhood, and strengthens our entire community. Today, we express our gratitude to Father Cregan for making a difference throughout the Cleveland area community.

#### RECOGNITION OF ALBERT M. ELÍAS

#### HON. RAÚL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 11, 2004

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Albert M. Elías for 50 years of service to organized labor and to the progressive political community in Tucson and Pima County as a member of International Typographical Union/Communications Workers of America Local 7026.

Albert M. Elías represents the highest ideals of the labor movement. While others talk about the need for a strong labor movement to protect and enhance the lives of working people, Albert, for more than 50 years, has worked to advance these goals. While others have talked about how Pima County and southern Arizona need progressive political success to empower the ordinary and disadvantaged among us, Albert has worked long hours helping politicians and movements advocate on behalf of these people.

Using the printing skills he has honed for most of his life, the knowledge he has gained over more than five decades of how the printed word can help realize worthy goals, and the personal contacts his honesty, integrity and goodwill have forged, Albert has achieved much and has helped others achieve even more in advancing political movements, and the labor movement in particular.

Albert, 75, a fourth-generation Tucson native, joined the International Typographical Union of his maternal grandfather Francisco S. Moreno in January 1954 and committed himself to a career in the printing trade. Albert believed that union membership would improve the professional quality of his work as a printer, and enable him to develop meaningful, long-term relationships in his community that would benefit himself and his family, as well as his union brothers and sisters. Union membership, he believed, also would provide him with better income and with vacations and holidays off to spend quality time with his family. It was Albert's goal to provide his children with the wherewithal to excel in education through high school and go on to college if they desired.

Time proved Albert to be correct. All three of the children of he and his wife Viola Baine are college graduates who are serving others in pursuit of their careers. Their eldest, Ana Elías Terry, has a master's degree from the University of Arizona and has worked as a bilingual speech therapist for Tucson Unified School District for 22 years. Son Albert is also a University of Arizona graduate and has been an urban planner for almost 20 years with the City of Tucson, where he is now the planning director. Son Richard parlayed his University of Arizona degree into winning election to the Pima County Board of Supervisors and becoming its vice chair.

Albert and his sister Aida Elías, the children of Alberto Spring Elías and Ermelinda Moreno Elías, always have lived their lives as Christians and are dedicated to their religious faith. Albert has maintained an active lifetime role in his Roman Catholic parish, based at St. Augustine's Cathedral in downtown Tucson. He served for many years as a member of its Parish Council.

Albert's interest in the printing trade goes back to his childhood in the 1930s. His grandfather Moreno had begun publishing the Spanish-language *El Tucsonense* weekly newspaper as a member of the Typographical Union in 1915, but he died an early death in 1929. *El Tucsonense* continued publication under ownership of his wife, Rosa E. Moreno, and with the help of her five children—Ermelinda, Gilberto, Federico, Arturo and Elías. Before Albert's 10th birthday he was delivering *El Tucsonense* by bicycle to the Latino barrios that dominated much of downtown Tucson. He worked his way into the print shop during his years at Tucson High School to be a "printer's devil," sweeping the floors, cleaning presses, and remelting the lead used to make ingots for the shop's linotype machines.

After graduating from Tucson High School in January 1947, Albert went to the Frank Wiggins Trade School in Los Angeles to learn more about printing. After completing those studies in 1948, Albert went to work in the print shop that published *El Tucsonense*, now being run by his uncle Arturo Moreno. That ended in late 1951 when Albert was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served in the infantry for two years before being honorably discharged. After his discharge, Albert returned to Tucson. But instead of rejoining *El Tucsonense*, Albert sought membership in the Typographical Union as a journeyman, skipping apprenticeship because of his experience. His skills earned him a position as a linotype operator in early 1954 with the Tucson daily newspapers, *The Arizona Daily Star* and *Tucson Citizen*.



A bitter and ultimately unsuccessful Typographical Union strike at the Star-Citizen in 1966, over job-depleting automation and the companies' rejection of the union's demand for a pension plan, ended Albert's 12-year stint with the daily newspapers. Fortuitously for Albert, El Tucsonense was in the process of folding and he and a partner, Oscar Araiza, bought his uncle's printing shop. Araiza retired in 1991 and Albert has run Old Pueblo Printers alone since then.

Upon taking control of the business in 1966, Albert and his partner began doing printing work for Tucson-area labor union locals and Democratic Party candidates for political office. One of the first campaigns for which Albert's shop printed the political literature was one of the late U.S. Representative Morris K. Udall's bids for office. Udall continued to use his services after that, as did Robert Kennedy for his assassination-truncated 1968 presidential campaign. Albert printed campaign materials for Raúl Castro, who was elected as the first Latino governor of Arizona; for Ed Pastor, who was elected as the first Latino congressman from Arizona; and for longtime Pima County Supervisors Sam Lena and Dan Eckstrom. I, too, came to Albert for my printing needs when I first launched what became a 12-year stint on the Tucson Unified School District Board. I continued to use Albert's services through 13 years on the Pima County Board of Supervisors and, finally, on my 2002 bid for Congress.

During his career, Albert supported labor leader César Chávez of the United Farm Workers, he supported the efforts of local Latino activists to get their fair share of federal funds to improve the homes and neighborhoods of their people, and he supported a landmark lawsuit forcing Tucson Unified School District to desegregate its schools. Albert always has been, and still is, fighting battles against those who seek to use their financial influence to their own advantage—and at the expense of ordinary working people.

Albert M. Elías deserves special recognition, honor and respect for his five decades of union membership—and for his meritorious achievements during that time on behalf of working people and the less fortunate of Pima County and Southern Arizona.

#### ON THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN MADRID, SPAIN

#### HON. JOHN LINDER

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, again a horrendous act of terrorism has been perpetrated on freedom-loving people in the world. Today, our friends in Spain are in mourning in the face of another cowardly attack by the enemies of freedom. News reports indicate that at least 173 people were killed and more than 600 injured in a series of explosions on Madrid's railway network at the height of morning rush hour.

Spain has suffered terrible losses from terrorism for decades, and the United States stands by its side today in grief. Our hearts go out to the Spanish people in this difficult time.

As I stated in September 2001, we—and our allies around the world—will show our re-

solve to our enemies. The free nations of the world will remain steadfast in our commitment together to ensure that those who hate freedom and liberty will not succeed. There are only two sides in this war: Ours and the enemy's. We reaffirm this today in light of the attacks in Madrid.

Lastly, it was President Franklin D. Roosevelt that stated that this Nation and its allies will defend ourselves to the uttermost and work to make certain that acts of war should never be permitted to endanger freedom-loving people again. Quote, "With confidence in our Armed Forces—with the unbounded determination of our people—we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God." This quote remains just as true today, as it did in December 1941.

#### FIRST ALL-FEMALE GRADUATING CLASS OF PICKER ENGINEERING SCHOOL OF SMITH COLLEGE

#### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor to congratulate the first all-female graduating class of the Picker Engineering School of Smith College. The Picker Program is committed to advancing opportunities for women in engineering. The engineering science program emphasizes an integrative teaching approach that will reinvent the standards of engineering and change the future.

The Picker Engineering Program has reinvented the role of engineering and thus expanded the way in which engineering students view the world. The 20 young women in the graduating class of 2004 have been exposed to an interwoven study of humanities and engineering. The creators of the academic department have redefined the standard curricula of engineering by integrating liberal arts education with traditional scientific and mathematical principles. The Picker Engineering Program stresses the importance of serving humanity and the protection of natural resources. The importance placed on environmental sustainability and social responsibility has raised the standards needed for an engineering degree.

The Picker Engineering School of Smith College will provide endless opportunities for students seeking an unparalleled education. It has already attracted a dedicated faculty and will continue to recruit superior staff and faculty. One of the highest percentages of women faculty, more than sixty percent, of any engineering programs in the country are employed by Smith College. The Picker program is a leading innovator in educating the next generation of engineers.

While women account for 45 percent of the American workforce, merely 9 percent of engineering careers are held by females. Smith College is dedicated to eliminating barriers to women in engineering while promoting interdisciplinary study. I speak on behalf of the second district of Massachusetts and the entire State in congratulating Smith College and welcoming the Picker Engineering School and its students to western Massachusetts.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ENHANCEMENT ACT

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, in passing the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA) back in 1995, Congress affirmed a very important principle: if a law is right for the private sector and the rest of the federal government, it is right for Congress.

In passing CAA, we brought ourselves under 11 labor and employment laws from which we had previously been exempt, but it has become clear our work is not complete.

Today, we introduced the Congressional Accountability Enhancement Act to try to further curtail the double standard that exists between Congress and the private sector by bringing Congress under even more of the laws it has passed for the rest of the country.

Specifically, the CAA omitted Title II of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits racial discrimination in places of public accommodation—like Member's offices or the Capitol building—to Congress. Additionally, CAA did not include whistleblower protections or require that the disabled have equal access to all electronic information, like Members' websites and committee hearing broadcasts.

In addition to extending these important protections, the Congressional Accountability Enhancement Act would ensure Legislative Branch employees are protected from discrimination or termination for serving jury duty, declaring bankruptcy or having their wages garnished for debt—protections inadvertently excluded from CAA.

We don't tolerate those kinds of discrimination in the private sector, and we certainly should not make excuses for them here in Congress. We have a responsibility as the Nation's lawmakers not only to lead by example, but also to share the burden we ask others to bear.

The bottom line is, Congress should not be above the law. Our bill will help ensure we live by the laws we've passed.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, on roll-call vote No. 50, I inadvertently voted "aye" instead of "nay." I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD reflect that I was opposed to the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. ANDREWS.

#### STOPPING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

#### HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to an epidemic plaguing our Nation—violence against women. Too often we

hear appalling statistics highlighting this fact; particularly regarding cases of domestic violence.

Nearly one-third of American women report being physically or sexually assaulted by a husband or boyfriend during their lifetime. The violence is not limited to adult women: One in five high school girls reports being abused by a dating partner.

In 2002 in my home State of New Jersey there were 79,844 domestic violence offenses reported by the police. Women were the victims in over 77 percent, or 61,715, of all these domestic violence offenses. In New Jersey, one act of domestic violence occurs every 6 minutes and 35 seconds.

In Passaic County, New Jersey there were 4,892 reported cases of domestic violence. The numbers are shocking. The crimes: heinous—3 Homicides, 6 Criminal Sexual Contacts, 2,825 Assaults, 280 Criminal Mischief cases, 469 Terroristic Threats, 48 Burglaries, 8 Kidnappings, 23 Criminal Trespass cases, 6 Criminal Restraint cases, 1,183 Harassment cases, 3 False Imprisonments, 20 Stalking cases, and 18 Sexual Assaults. Women were the victims in at least 3,767 of these cases.

We have a responsibility to reverse these unacceptable statistics. The women of Passaic County, of New Jersey and the entire Nation, deserve better. No woman should live in fear of domestic violence.

In addition to the terror, domestic violence is a serious health care issue that affects thousands of women and their children. The health-related cost of domestic violence against women exceeds \$5.8 billion each year.

Health care providers are on the front lines of the battle as they often identify domestic violence and provide victims with care and support. That is why I support the Domestic Violence Screening, Treatment and Prevention Act, which would provide research on the health impact and prevention of family violence; training for health care professionals regarding identification and treatment for families experiencing family violence; and health care coverage for domestic violence identification and treatment.

There is great need for both women and men to join together to speak out and stop the violence. Stop the violence against women. As a Congress, as a Nation, we must work to protect the rights of women and ensure that they have the support and services necessary.

#### INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT FOR H.R. 3936

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today, along with Mr. EVANS, and Mr. SKELTON, I am introducing H.R. 3936, a bill to authorize the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, now located in commercial office space in the District of Columbia, to seek a new location in the greater national capital region. This measure would also express the sense of Congress that a dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center should be provided for the court and the veterans it serves. It would be located, if possible, on one of

three small parking lots next to I-395 on the Pentagon Reservation.

The court, created by statute in 1988, is an independent Article I judicial tribunal that for the first time gave our Nation's veterans the right to judicial review of the Department of Veterans (VA) benefits decisions on their disability, pension, education and other claims. It should, like all other article I courts, have a permanent courthouse.

In addition to the court, occupants of the new Courthouse would be members of those constituencies that regularly practice before the court, for example, the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, the National Veterans Legal Services Program, and the appellate attorneys of veterans service organizations. The court and the offices of its constituents pay over \$3.7 million per year for their rent. The General Services Administration anticipates that the court's rental costs will increase substantially in the not-too-distant future, so it would be desirable to relocate the court on a government-owned site, if possible.

H.R. 3936 would also require the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Administrator of General Services to submit a joint report to the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs on the feasibility of locating a new Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center at an appropriate site owned by the United States that is part of or near the Pentagon Reservation.

Mr. Speaker, given the past, present, and future sacrifices of the many men and women of our Armed Forces, I cannot imagine a better use for one of the present parking lots near the Pentagon, than a stand-alone, dedicated Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center to embody the gratitude and respect this Nation has for the service of every veteran.

I invite my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation as a first step toward a Veterans Courthouse and Justice Center for the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

#### VETERANS ACCESS

**HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, many veterans in the first district of Idaho, which I represent, live in rural areas where access to VA healthcare facilities is limited.

In Idaho, access for many veterans is limited by geography; mountain ranges, rivers, and great distances. These veterans deserve better access to the health benefits they've earned by serving our country.

While there are no easy solutions to these problems, I feel the VA has worked hard to provide veterans living in rural areas some opportunities to receive care.

A number of programs including outpatient clinics, temporary clinics, and mobile care units have all helped to address the access problem in these areas.

While these programs have shown some success, I believe there are other innovative ways we can address the access issue.

One such way is limited outsourcing. I am a cosponsor of H.R. 3777, the HEALTHY Vets Act, which was introduced by my colleague

SCOTT MCINNIS. This bill creates opportunities for Veterans in rural areas to access timely healthcare from doctors and hospitals in their communities.

Many rural communities understand the value of their community doctors and hospitals. Rural healthcare is expensive, and these communities are fighting hard to maintain these resources. Allowing veterans access to community hospitals makes sense for our veterans and our communities.

I have a deep appreciation for the men and women who have risked their lives for America's freedoms and feel our Nation should keep its promises to our veterans.

Throughout our history our Nation has been forced to maintain our commitment to freedom, and likewise, we must continue our commitment to our Nation's veterans.

#### COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT (CREATE) ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation. I cannot overstate the importance of encouraging collaboration when it comes to developing new technologies, particularly in the medical field. That is why Congress amended the patent laws in the mid-1980's to allow the patenting of inventions even when the inventions were not developed by a single person.

Unfortunately, the Federal courts have interpreted the law in a way that vitiates our intent in enacting it in the first place. The Federal Circuit ruled in the OddzOn case that an inventor's knowledge of "secret prior art" could prevent the issuance of a patent unless the inventor basically worked in the same organization that developed the prior art.

This ruling is having a detrimental impact on innovation. Because many universities and other non-profits do not enter into the formal structures envisioned by OddzOn when they work to develop drugs and other technologies, they are losing patent protection and an incentive to work together. We will see a decline not only in collaborations but also in the development of life-saving drugs and other inventions.

That is why I am pleased we are considering this bill, of which I am an original cosponsor. H.R. 2391 reiterates the importance of research collaborations by allowing them to obtain patent protection without entering into formal relationships. This legislation will encourage collaboration and spur innovation.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO IRENE COLLINS

**HON. THADDEUS G. McCOTTER**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. McCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, last week my district lost a beloved member of our community and, with great sorrow, I pay her posthumous tribute today.

Irene Collins was a fiery, dedicated, and very determined lady, who never stopped giving of herself to her community, be it helping troubled teenagers or supporting numerous civic activities and community causes. This special lady is survived by her four siblings; six children; seventeen grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. May all who knew her and are terribly saddened by the loss of Irene take comfort in the kindness of her enduring works, which constitute the finest and truest tribute to her.

COMMENDING WHITKO HIGH  
SCHOOL ART STUDENTS

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the artistic achievements of 15 students at Whitko High School in South Whitley, Indiana. Whitko High School was one of 18 schools in the United States that recently participated in the 34th World School Children's Art Exhibition in the Republic of China, Taipei. The purpose of the exhibition is to promote mutual understanding and friendship among the younger generation of the world.

It is a tremendous honor for Whitko High School students to be recognized for their artistic abilities on an international level, especially considering nearly 40 countries were represented at the exhibition.

I'd now like to recognize by name each of the fifteen Whitko students who received the international award medals: Hannah Brennenman, Mark Harness, Jessica Cripe, Kristine Rotach, Rebecca Morford, Kayla Green, Adam Porter, Tasia Boggs, Angie Roberts, Lisa Wilkinson, Katie Menzie, Jana Rowland, Dana Sellers, Emily Crist, and Hillary Lacy. Each of these students has demonstrated outstanding artistic skill and talent by being recognized in the World School Children's Art Exhibition, and I applaud them for their fine work.

I also commend Whitko High School's art teacher Walter C. Malicki for his dedication and enthusiasm for developing the artistic abilities of Whitko students. Over the past several years, Whitko High School students have received 32 national and 95 international awards. These honors are due, in large part, to the leadership of Mr. Malicki and his encouragement of each student's artistic abilities.

Once again, I extend my congratulations to the Whitko High School art students for their achievements in the 34th World School Children's Art Exhibition. Keep up the good work.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF HEATHER TAYLOR-MIESLE

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heather Taylor-Miesle, a dedicated and passionate young woman who has worked in my office as a Legislative Assistant handling

environmental and transportation issues for nearly three years.

Heather was instrumental in shepherding into law a bill that is important to my community and close to my heart—the San Gabriel Valley Watershed Act (Public Law 108–65). Signed into law on July 1, 2003, the bill implements a study that will investigate how to preserve green, open and recreational space in the San Gabriel Valley Watershed in Los Angeles County. This law will go a long way towards ensuring environmental justice for the community I represent—one that is often the victim of environmental blight, rather than the beneficiary of environmental good fortune.

Heather is a proud environmental advocate who constantly pushes to ensure that the health and well-being of people remains at the top of the environmental agenda. She has worked with the local cities I represent to focus on cleaning up polluted Superfund sites and assessing the health risks of dust emitted by local gravel mining pits.

As Heather leaves the office to pursue a new professional opportunity, I wish her, her husband Don, and son Isaiah the best of luck. Her warm personality and friendly demeanor will be greatly missed.

“CHAVEZ’S DISRESPECT FOR  
DEMOCRACY”

**HON. BARNEY FRANK**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last week I released a statement expressing my disappointment with the use by Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE) of hyper-technical points and controversial procedural rulings to repress what appears to be the clear will of a sufficient number of Venezuelan citizens to move the country to a constitutional referendum on President Chavez.

The Organization of American States and the Carter Center observed first hand the democratic spirit shown by Venezuelans during the signature collection process, and they have publicly stated that they saw no significant problems with the collection of signatures.

Both organizations have also said they disagree with the Chavez-dominated electoral board's decision to set aside 876,000 signatures unless citizens come forward to validate them because the large numbers involved here, and the short time period allowed in which to appeal these signatures, could frustrate the will of the Venezuelan people to have a referendum on their president.

Because the decision of the CNE seems to me likely to obstruct the constitutional referendum process, I am submitting into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a recent editorial from The Washington Post entitled “Coups by Technicality” which provides specific details on the decision.

I think it is also important that President Chavez understand that if the will of the Venezuelan people is disregarded, the international community will appropriately blame him, as the country's leader, for contributing, through his rhetoric and actions, to such a profoundly anti-democratic outcome.

[From the Washington Post, March 5, 2004]

COUP BY TECHNICALITY

LATE LAST YEAR 3,448,747 of Venezuela's 24 million citizens turned out in just four days to sign petitions calling for a recall referendum on President Hugo Chavez. This extraordinary civic exercise, monitored by observers from the Organization of American States and the Carter Center, offered a democratic solution to years of political conflict in that important oil-producing nation—trouble that threatened to push Venezuela into dictatorship or civil war. Now Mr. Chavez, whose crackpot populism and authoritarian methods provoked the crisis, blatantly seeks to stop the vote, in violation of his commitment to both the OAS and his own constitution. His actions have already prompted a new wave of unrest across the country, including demonstrations in which at least seven people have been killed. Unless he can be restrained, Mr. Chavez may complete his destruction of one of Latin America's most enduring democracies.

Though the constitution, drawn up under Mr. Chavez's own administration, requires 20 percent of all voters to back a referendum, opposition groups collected 1 million signatures more than should have been needed for the recall vote. These signatures were rigorously audited by a nonpartisan civic group before being forwarded to the electoral commission. Yet, after delaying its response for weeks, the commission, dominated by Mr. Chavez's supporters, rejected 1.6 million of them, or nearly half the total. To do so, it invented requirements that didn't previously exist. Most notably, it threw out 876,000 signatures, each accompanied by a thumbprint, because someone other than the voter had entered registration details on the petition.

Mr. Chavez's functionaries subsequently announced that they would give about a million of those stricken from the list a chance to restore their names—but only if they appear in a limited number of registration centers during one two-day period. In practice, that poses a next-to-impossible logistical challenge to the opposition, even if there were no harassment from Mr. Chavez's police and civilian goon squads. But attempts by the foreign mediators to reverse this Kafkaesque coup have so far been unsuccessful.

Mr. Chavez, who has built a strong alliance with Cuba's Fidel Castro and imported thousands of Cuban personnel, appears eager for a domestic and international confrontation. Last weekend he called President Bush an “illegitimate” president, referred to him with a vulgar epithet and threatened to cut off oil supplies to the United States. Opposition leaders say that more than 300 people have been arrested in recent days, and that some have been tortured. Given the Bush administration's weak position in the region, hope for a peaceful or democratic solution rests mostly with Venezuela's Latin American neighbors, starting with Brazil. If Mr. Chavez continues to deny his people a democratic vote, leaders from those nations must be prepared to invoke the Democracy Charter of the OAS and threaten him with the isolation reserved for autocrats.

IN MEMORY OF THE LATE JOHN  
MICHAEL “MIKE” SEGER

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of John Michael “Mike” Seger.

Mike was born on May 16, 1957 in Fort Lee, Virginia and later grew up in central Iowa. Mike was the eldest of eight children born into a family with a rich military history. Although unable to continue in the tradition of his grandfather, who served in the Pacific front during World War II, and his father, who served in the Army, due to an accident that left him blind in one eye, Mike grew up with a strong sense of responsibility and a keen intellect.

After graduating from Lakeview High School, Mike attended Briar Cliff College in Iowa for two years before moving to Vermont in 1978. There he met his wife of 24 years, Jane, across the parking lot of the Midas Muffler in Burlington where he worked. Together they started a family with the birth of daughter, Laura, in 1981 and then with the three month premature birth of their triplets, John Richard, Jennifer and Amanda in 1982. Sadly, Amanda passed away nine days later due to a ruptured heart valve.

While a bookkeeper for Midas Mike's love of and involvement in the automotive industry began. He later followed that love to St. Paul, Minnesota where he began working for Lehman's Garage, Inc. Through the years Mike advanced to Chief Financial Officer and served on numerous automotive industry committees, such as NACE, NABC and ICAR. On December 3, 2003, Mike received the first ever "Q" Award from the National Auto Body Council in recognition of the "individual who quietly persist in doing the right thing for the Collision Repair Industry."

After being diagnosed with Stage Four Colon Cancer in June of 2003, Mike was blessed with the help of the many friends he had acquired during his journey. He was also recently reunited with the son, Travis Tentinger, he had given up for adoption in 1978 and discovered that he was a grandfather of three adorable children. Although Mike's battle with his cancer ended on February 4, 2004, this reunion and the constant support of his friends and family made the last months of Mike's life as full as possible.

Mike Seger was the type of man who is the backbone of community life in our country: quiet, dependable, hardworking. I urge the House to join me in mourning the passage of Mike Seger and extending our condolences to his family and friends.

#### MEDICAL DEVICES TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 9, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, the House is to be commended for swift action this week on S. 1881, The Medical Device User Fee and Modernization Act. This bill removes the barriers that would have prevented the program from functioning as intended. I am particularly pleased about the provisions concerning third party inspections, which were included in the bill.

The training for the third party inspection program is complete and with passage of S. 1881, the program will finally get underway. S. 1881 also rightly includes an 18-month delay in the implementation of the labeling provisions

in section 301 of MDUFMA. During this time, questions concerning the requisite scope of the labeling requirement can be resolved. The agency, industry and the Congress have an interest in reaching a solution that permits the identification of the manufacturer of some categories of products by the end user, yet maintains flexibility for the many other products produced by FDA regulated industries. I am certain all interested parties will continue to work toward that balanced solution. And I look forward to finalizing the labeling provisions in a manner, which meets the concerns of industry, consumers and the FDA.

#### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY IN FOOD CONSUMPTION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 339) to prevent frivolous lawsuits against the manufacturers, distributors, or sellers of food or non-alcoholic beverage products that comply with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements:

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Chairman, the proponents of H.R. 339, the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act, argue that those who legally manufacture or sell food should be protected from lawsuits which claim the consumption of their product caused weight gain, obesity and/or weight related health conditions. However, the bill applies to manufacturers and sellers of food, as defined by Section 201(f) of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, including various nutritional and weight loss supplements, like Ephedra, which are in effect marketed as drugs.

Congress should deal separately with statutes regarding food purveyors and those lawsuits relating to the manufacture or marketing of nutritional supplements which are marketed as if they are drugs—some of which have the same benefits and risks of drugs.

The amendment offered by the Gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) sought to clarify the bill. But the proponents of the bill rejected this amendment. As a result, the bill is confusing in its scope and I voted against it for that reason.

I hope the bill is improved in the Senate to apply only to those who sell "food" as that term is normally used. Products marketed as drugs should be dealt with separately.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. PORTER J. GOSS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, this evening I had to depart early for a previously scheduled meeting. As a result, I was not able to be present for rollcall votes 52, 53, and 54. Had I been present, I would have voted "no," on rollcall votes 52 and 53. I would have voted "yea," on rollcall vote 54. I request that this

statement appear at the appropriate place in the RECORD. Thank you.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF HENRY JO VON TUNGELN

**HON. FRANK D. LUCAS**

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to remember and honor an outstanding citizen, Henry Jo Von Tungeln from Calumet, Oklahoma, who passed away on February 28th.

Henry Jo was born on May 13, 1931 southwest of El Reno, Oklahoma. He was a fourth generation farmer and rancher in Canadian County. He was known throughout his community and the State for his commitment to community service and to the agriculture industry.

Henry Jo was a tireless champion of agriculture, which was exemplified through his dedication to numerous agriculture organizations. He was active in the Oklahoma Farm Bureau, where he served as Vice President of The Oklahoma Farm Bureau State Board of Directors. He also served as the Canadian County Farm Bureau President for 45 years. He served 3 terms as Chairman of the Oklahoma Wheat Commission and was appointed by three Governors. He also served as Secretary, Vice Chairman and Chairman of the U.S. Wheat Associates. He served on the Dean's Advisory Committee for the Oklahoma State University Division of Agriculture. In 2000, Henry Jo received the OSU Master Agronomist award. He was elected to the Oklahoma Agriculture Hall of Fame in 2002. Henry Jo served on the Oklahoma Beef Council Board of Directors. He received the Oklahoma Farm Bureau Service Award. Henry Jo served on the International Trade Commission. He was elected Progressive Farmer Man of the Year in 2001. He also received the Agriculture Ambassador Award from Redlands Community College.

Perhaps Henry Jo was best known for opening his home to many of us for discussions about the things that would benefit his community and the agriculture industry, so that future generations could enjoy the same way of life that he so enjoyed. He welcomed many to his dinner table, including international groups who were visiting Oklahoma to learn more about our agricultural products. He was an amazing ambassador for our State.

Mr. Speaker, I join today with Henry Jo's family, friends, and community to honor his life and his commitment to his family, his community, and to the advancement of agriculture. He was an outstanding man and will truly be missed by all who knew him.

#### SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO GARY L. BRYENTON FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE IN THE STATE OF OHIO

**HON. PAUL E. GILLMOR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to pay special tribute to

Mr. Gary L. Bryenton, an outstanding gentleman and good friend from Ohio, upon his retirement from his position as the Executive Partner of the Baker and Hostetler law firm, headquartered in Cleveland, OH.

Gary Bryenton grew up on a farm in Litchfield, OH, in Medina County. He graduated from Buckeye High School in 1957.

Gary started his professional career following his graduation from Heidelberg College in 1961. He then moved on to work for the Arthur G. McKee Company in Cleveland, as an assistant editor. Gary was graduated from Case Western Reserve Law School in 1965, where he served as Editor-in-Chief of the law review and was a member of the National Moot Court Team. Upon graduation, Gary joined the law firm of Baker, Hostetler & Patterson as an associate.

Mr. Speaker, in 1972, Gary became a partner in his law firm and was appointed Managing Partner of the Cleveland Office. He became a member of the Policy Committee in 1987, was appointed Chief Operating Officer in 1996, and was elected as the Executive Partner (CEO) of the 550-member firm in 1997.

The responsibilities of this position involved directing and managing all executive functions, serving as principal spokesman for the firm, serving on numerous charitable, civic, private, and public company boards of directors, and occasionally taking on the responsibilities as legal counsel for some of the firm's larger clients.

Mr. Bryenton has held a number of other administrative positions at the firm, in addition to chairing the firm's Policy Committee. These other positions include Chairman of the Recruiting Committee, Chairman of the Practice Development Committee, and Chairman of the firm's Community Relations and Political Action Committees. Mr. Bryenton has served as a trustee of the Cleveland Bar Association, a member of its Professional Ethics Committee, and Editor of the Cleveland Bar Journal.

He also serves on the boards of directors of many corporations and on the boards of trustees of numerous charitable and civic organizations. Mr. Bryenton is a Board member of the Cleveland Orchestra, The National Conference for Community and Justice, The Greater Cleveland Growth Association, and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. He is the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Heidelberg College, from which he and his wife, Barbara, were graduated.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Gary L. Bryenton. Our communities are served well by having such honorable and giving citizens, like Gary, who care about their well being and stability. We wish Gary and his family all the best as we pay tribute to one of Ohio's finest citizens.

#### INTRODUCTION OF A BILL THAT WOULD GRANT UNCONDITIONAL AND PERMANENT TRADE RELATIONS TO UKRAINE

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today my brother, Senator LEVIN, and I have introduced a bill

that would grant unconditional and permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) to Ukraine and remove Ukraine, unconditionally and permanently, from the application of the so-called Jackson-Vanik amendment. The legislation would provide an historic update in U.S.-Ukraine trade relations. It would strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations and reinforce progress Ukraine has made in many areas. Additionally, the legislation would ensure that Congress continues to play an active role—with the Administration and with Ukraine—in confronting trade disputes and negotiating the terms of Ukraine's WTO accession.

This legislation is the culmination of a month's long effort, involving consultations with the Ukrainian Embassy, Ukrainian groups in the United States, other Members of Congress, including some on the Helsinki Commission, and other groups that have expressed an interest in Ukraine's removal from Jackson-Vanik. I think that it addresses many of the concerns that have been raised in a way that will help Ukraine PNTR on its way through Congress.

The legislation expands on a Ukraine PNTR bill that my brother and I introduced a couple of years in the 107th Congress (H.R. 4723/S. 3089). The bill we are introducing today reflects updates and improvements from our previous bill, which we believe will help this one garner the broad support necessary to push the issue along.

I am aware that there are elections in Ukraine later this year, and we all know how important it is that those elections be conducted transparently and fairly, in accordance with international norms. My reasons for supporting PNTR for Ukraine relate to the importance of Ukraine and what PNTR can mean for its economic and democratic development, not to any individual candidacy.

It is useful to recall that the Jackson-Vanik amendment was itself an amendment to Title IV of the Trade Act of 1974, a trade statute. In particular, Title IV created a framework for conducting trade relations with non-market economies. The Jackson-Vanik amendment, which has been an effective tool for raising freedom of emigration and human rights concerns, is a key element of Title IV; however, the underlying purpose and function of the statute were and remain the conduct of trade relations.

Accordingly, PNTR legislation must address fundamental trade issues. Consistent congressional practice is to grant PNTR to a country that is subject to Jackson-Vanik only at the time of the country's WTO accession, or when negotiations on accession were effectively completed. In this way, Congress's vote on PNTR has served as a way to signal approval for the country's WTO accession agreement. Under this approach, Congress was able to exercise its constitutional prerogative to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and the American people benefited from the Administration negotiating the strongest possible agreement.

This precedent has led to an important series of successful accessions to the WTO, including most notably for China, on terms that reinforced the WTO rules-based system, and brought great benefits to the people of the United States as well as other WTO countries.

In the case of Ukraine, WTO accession terms are still being negotiated. I believe it is appropriate to depart from that precedent and

grant Ukraine PNTR now, so long as Congress retains a meaningful, effective tool to ensure that U.S. interests are fully addressed in those negotiations. And, there are many critical issues that still need to be addressed—Ukraine's protection for intellectual property rights, commitments to open its auto market, commitments in the services and other sectors, to name just a few. Moreover, there have been a number of recent trade tensions with Ukraine—including in the poultry sector. While these appear to have been addressed, they renewed concerns in Congress about trade relationships with Ukraine.

This legislation ensures that Congress will continue to play an active role in addressing trade problems as they emerge and in obtaining a strong WTO accession agreement from Ukraine. While giving up the precedent of using the PNTR vote as a proxy for approval of WTO accession, the legislation allows Congress to consider a resolution directly addressing the terms of agreement between the U.S. and Ukraine on Ukraine's WTO accession. While in its form, this resolution would be non-binding on the Executive, it would provide Congress with an important tool to assure itself continuing oversight over the Executive as it forms the terms of Ukraine's WTO accession.

There are two sides to the PNTR coin—the trade issues and the "Jackson-Vanik" issues. The Jackson-Vanik amendment was a historic piece of legislation, aimed at addressing a serious problem in the former Soviet Union. It set forth important criteria related to freedom of emigration necessary for certain countries to obtain normal trade relations with the United States. Even from its inception, however, the Jackson-Vanik amendment was not only concerned with freedom of emigration, but also reflected the American commitment to human rights and freedom of religion. This fact is evident not only in the preamble of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, but also in the operation of U.S. relations with the former Soviet countries for nearly 30 years.

I think it is appropriate, then, that as we consider graduating Ukraine from the Jackson-Vanik amendment, that we place a strong emphasis on American values of freedom of emigration, religious freedom, and human rights issues. These were the issues at the core of the Jackson-Vanik amendment, and continue to be relevant when considering termination of this amendment. I am glad that we were able to craft a bill that addresses these vital issues in a responsible way, rather than giving them "check-the-box" cursory treatment or not addressing them at all.

#### INTRODUCTION OF FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL LEGISLATION

**HON. FRANK A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation to allow the Federal Air Marshal Service to offer their specialized training services to foreign law enforcement personnel.

Last December, in the wake of perceived threats to certain flights from foreign countries, the Department of Homeland Security placed

a requirement on foreign airlines to carry armed law enforcement personnel on flights into or over the United States determined by U.S. intelligence to be a threat or suspected threat.

With this important directive in mind, my legislation would allow the Federal Air Marshal Service to offer their specialized training to foreign law enforcement personnel. The legislation would also require the sponsoring foreign country to reimburse the Service for the cost of training.

The Air Marshal training facility located in Pomona, NJ, is unique. It is the world premiere facility for the very specialized on-board aircraft law enforcement training. The training they receive there is far more sophisticated than just airborne firearm proficiency and hand to hand combat. Air Marshals are also trained to help out in any airborne emergency situation, including evacuating passengers and flying a pilotless plane. The facility does a tremendous job teaching students to safely and efficiently eliminate a terrorist threat under very confined and crowded conditions all while traveling at over 30,000 feet in the air.

My legislation will allow students from across the globe access to the intense training regime available only at the Pomona facility and better equip America's allies to help us fight the War on Terror.

#### RECOGNITION OF NATO ENLARGEMENT

**HON. JOHN SHIMKUS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the upcoming enlargement of NATO when Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia are added as official members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Each of these nations, formerly part of the Soviet bloc, has emerged from their long struggle towards freedom as examples of the good that can come from people working together towards a common goal—in this case democracy and individual freedom.

As one of the co-chairs of the Baltic Caucus and a fourth generation Lithuanian, I can personally attest to the efforts and personal sacrifices that the people of these nations have been making for many decades now. Their determination to rid themselves and their countries of communist and dictatorial rule is a humbling lesson for those of us who have never known life without freedom.

We should welcome their commitment to freedom and provide them with the support they need to help insure that these growing democracies will flourish and become role models for other nations yearning for the same. Adding these nations to NATO is an extremely important step forward in our efforts to promote freedom and in our efforts against worldwide terrorism.

Already, many of these nations have made tremendous contributions to our efforts to stabilize Iraq and have a lasting impact in bringing peace to the Middle East. Clearly, these are nations that recognize the world beyond their own borders.

I am extremely proud to welcome Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia,

and Slovenia into NATO. I especially want to congratulate the many citizens and patriots in these nations and across the world who have struggled to get us to this historic moment. Your efforts will make a difference for generations to come.

#### COMMENDING INDIA ON ITS CELEBRATION OF REPUBLIC DAY

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to stand here today representing the citizens of America in honoring India's Republic Day. Fifty-five years ago India reached the goal that every great nation strives to attain which is the formation of a Democratic Republic. We as a Democratic nation must extend our recognition to the fellow nations of the world who represent the ideals of freedom and liberty, the same virtues, which make our country so beautiful and celebrate with them as we are all believers in Democracy.

The Indian nation represents one of the emerging nations in our increasingly globalized world. Boasting a GDP, the main indicator of economic success, that is number 4 on the world rankings, shows how impressive their rise has been in such a short period of time in relation to gaining independence from monarchy rule.

Their citizens which are part of the social and economic fabric of many of the world's countries including the United States are known for their academic success, business prowess, and social acceptance. Specifically in the United States they are a vibrant community holding the highest per capita income of any other minority community.

The Indian American community's love for the US and its people has also been demonstrated in their increasing participation with the political scene. Wanting to get involved so as to be in a position to add a new and fresh perspective should be commended and supported. We must remember that our forefathers once immigrated from foreign lands and it was their work and commitment to a strong country that allowed us to flourish through the years. Today we as Americans will recognize the same efforts being put forth by the Indian American community in their attempts to add to America's prosperity and continual success in the years to come.

I commend India for its 55th Anniversary of its foundation as a republic and point to many future years ahead of successful partnership between India and the United States.

#### INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO PROTECT CALIFORNIA MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES FROM BEING FORCED INTO HMOs BY THE REPUBLICAN MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BILL

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my California colleague HENRY WAXMAN and 24 of our Democratic California colleagues to introduce important legislation to protect California's Medicare beneficiaries from being forced into HMOs.

The Republican Medicare prescription drug law has many downfalls. The legislation we are introducing today corrects only one of them, but it is an especially important fix for seniors and people with disabilities who live in California.

As part of the prescription drug law, Republicans insisted on including a demonstration project beginning in 2010 that would require the traditional fee-for-service program to compete against private HMOs and other managed care plans for payment. This so-called "premium support" or "comparative cost adjustment" demonstration will cause Medicare beneficiaries who choose to remain in traditional fee-for-service Medicare to pay more and more for that choice. This cost differential will economically force people into HMOs—even if those plans do not meet their health care needs. Its part of the overall goal of the bill to dismantle Medicare as we know it.

Because we don't want California's seniors to be forced into health plans against their will, we've authored legislation to exempt California from eligibility for this wrong-headed demonstration program.

Senator BOXER has introduced companion legislation in the Senate (S. 2116). Upon introduction, she said the following:

In California, 12 of its metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) now qualify for the demonstration project. If the two largest MSAs are chosen for this demonstration project, 1.4 million Californians will be faced with a Hobson's choice. They will be required to join an HMO or pay higher premiums.

That brings us to the real question: Why is this necessary? Is it because seniors can't choose HMOs under the current system? No. Seniors can choose to join an HMO right now if they wish. I'll tell you why: It is a backdoor attempt to achieve Newt Gingrich's vision for a Medicare that will 'wither on the vine.'

We agree with Senator BOXER. Seniors and people with disabilities should have the right to join a managed care plan in Medicare if they feel that plan will best meet their health care needs. That right exists in Medicare today and is preserved in the Republican-passed prescription drug legislation. However, no senior should be FORCED to join an HMO because it is the only way that they can obtain affordable health care.

That's why we've joined together to introduce this bill to exempt California from eligibility for the demonstration program—a demonstration that would force seniors into a Hobson's choice that will limit their access to the health care they need and result in the real goal of the Republican-passed Medicare legislation: the dismantling of the Medicare program.

## UFW WINS HISTORIC CONTRACT

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I wish to call my colleagues' attention to a recent collective bargaining agreement between Pictsweet Mushroom Farms in Ventura, California and the United Farm Workers. This agreement deserves note on several counts.

First, it marks the first time since 1987 that the employees at Southern California's largest mushroom farm have been able to work under a collective bargaining agreement. As a result, 300 workers will enjoy higher wages, increased job security, and a company-paid health plan.

Second, it removes Pictsweet products from the boycott list. Pictsweet was first organized in 1975 and operated under a collective bargaining agreement until 1987, when the plant was bought by United Foods Inc. United Foods was intransigent in its refusal to enter a collective bargaining agreement with the UFW. In 2000, the UFW called for a national boycott of Pictsweet products and that boycott forced the plant to cut production by as much as half. By finally agreeing to deal fairly with its workers, Pictsweet will become a more profitable and productive facility.

Most importantly, however, this contract is the first to result from the enactment of California's law allowing farm workers or growers to seek mandatory mediation for farm labor negotiations that have reached impasse. Pictsweet was adamant in its refusal to negotiate a bargaining agreement. The UFW submitted the dispute to mediation in July and the mediator issued a proposed labor agreement on January 30. The company has decided to proceed with implementation of the mediator's report. As a consequence, the right of workers to benefit from collective bargaining has been preserved and the company has the opportunity to move from intransigent, ideological views of labor relations to pragmatic considerations of how best to work with their workers. Pictsweet workers were among the strongest proponents of the mandatory mediation when it was under consideration. It is fitting that they and their employer are the first to benefit from it.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the workers at Pictsweet and President Arturo Rodriguez and the leadership of the UFW for this historic achievement. I also want to commend my colleagues in the California Legislature for developing a model for the rest of the nation on how we can provide workers with a meaningful voice in the determination of their wages and working conditions. Legislation that I have introduced to restore meaningful collective bargaining rights to American workers, the Employee Free Choice Act, includes a similar provision providing for mediation and arbitration of first contracts.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, due to illness I missed roll call votes 12 through 18 that were called February 2, 3 and 4, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I not been ill and been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, and 18.

I was also unavoidably absent from this chamber on March 2 and 9, 2004. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 32, 33, 42, 43 and 44.

**HONORING THE DEDICATED  
SERVICE OF CARY MASIN****HON. BART GORDON**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service and tremendous contributions that Cary Masin has given Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District. Cary has been a dedicated member of my Washington, DC, staff for the past five years.

But she is moving on to greener pastures. Cary's last day is Monday, and although my staff and I are sad to see Cary leave, we are glad she has taken a job that will further her career and is worthy of her incredible abilities.

Cary has proven to be an outstanding legislative assistant on Capitol Hill. Her uncanny insight, hard work and rock-solid research skills have helped me do my job better. Those same abilities have also gained the respect of her colleagues.

Cary is a talented professional who always completes the task at hand, no matter how complicated or tedious. She has truly excelled in the fast-paced environment of Congress. Through it all, though, Cary always took the time to bestow a compliment or kind word to most everyone she met. She will now share her tremendous abilities and experience with her new employer, who should be ecstatic over having found such a fine person.

Thanks for all your help, Cary. You will always have a special place in my heart. Good luck in your new job, and may God bless you in your future endeavors.

**OFFICER MARY ANN COLLURA****HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to introduce a bill, at the suggestion of a high school student in my district, and with the support of the entire New Jersey House delegation, authorizing the renaming of the main post office in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, as the Mary Ann Collura Post Office.

After dutifully serving eighteen years as an outstanding officer and a role model in her

community, Officer Collura was fatally shot on April 17, 2003, in the line of duty. Throughout her life, Mary Ann Collura embodied what is best in our communities—she was courageous, kind, and concerned about the world and people around her. Renaming the main post office in Fair Lawn after Mary Ann will help ensure that her legacy lives on.

The fact that a Fair Lawn High School student came up with the idea of renaming the post office speaks volumes about how much Officer Collura meant to the people of Fair Lawn. Officer Collura fought hard for what was right and worked tirelessly each day, risking her life, to make sure the residents of Fair Lawn and their families were safe. The post office redesignation is just one way in which we can honor her life in the Borough she loved.

By renaming the post office in Fair Lawn after Officer Mary Ann Collura, we are ensuring that she will always have a presence in our community. Officer Collura was a beloved and trusted member of the Fair Lawn community, which is why renaming the main post office is fitting.

**HONORING MARILYN BICKEL****HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Marilyn Bickel of Chicago on her recent retirement after seventeen years of excellence and dedication as Chief of Staff to Alderman Patrick J. Levar of the 45th Ward.

Marilyn Bickel has served the Chicago City Council and the Jefferson Park neighborhood ever since Alderman Levar was first sworn in on April 16, 1987. She met the Alderman when he was a junior attending St. Patrick High School and began working for him during his first election.

During this time, Marilyn was asked to work with the Polish-speaking community in the St. Constance Parish area and was later given a permanent place on his staff.

Marilyn worked hard to develop close relationships with the many Chicago departmental representatives and always knew the right person to contact for a constituent in need. Marilyn always went out of her way to provide assistance to those who were unable to access alternate means of assistance.

In addition, Marilyn has served as a liaison to local chambers of commerce for Alderman Levar. She calmly dealt with many difficult circumstances, most notably the period following the terrorist attacks of September 11th. In a time of apprehension and doubt, Marilyn worked to console the fears of her fellow Chicagoans, and the residents of the 45th Ward.

Marilyn's family has also been a priority in her life. Her two children, Robert and William, are the proud parents of her grandchildren Bob, Ashley, Debbie and Bailey. In retirement, she will join her husband, Bill Bickel, who retired after a 32 year career with the Chicago Police Department. Marilyn and Bill will now have the opportunity to travel more, something Marilyn has long been waiting to do.

Mr. Speaker, I join with all of the residents of Jefferson Park and the 45th Ward of Chicago in congratulating Marilyn Bickel on her



retirement, and wish her, and her wonderful husband Bill, all the happiness in the future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. HELEN  
WASHBURN

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it has come to my attention that Dr. Helen Washburn will retire as President of Cottey College in Nevada, Missouri. Cottey College is a two-year, independent women's college that for the past 18 years has benefitted from the fine leadership of Dr. Washburn.

In her time at Cottey College, Dr. Washburn has been the most valuable of leaders. Seeing needs, she worked to address them and make the experience at Cottey of the highest quality. As an example, Dr. Washburn was instrumental in combating a trend that she observed of young women losing interest in math and sciences at a young age. In response, she created a summer science camp held on the Cottey campus. This camp was exclusively for young women. In addition, Dr. Washburn's long-range planning efforts resulted in an Associate of Science degree to compliment the Associate of Arts already offered.

Dr. Washburn's efforts to aid in the education of young women can be seen in other aspects of Cottey College. She led the campaign to construct the Rubie Burton Academic Center, a state-of-the-art academic facility that helps students keep up with the latest technology. The Center for Women's Leadership aids young women in becoming tomorrow's leaders. Most recently, under Dr. Washburn's leadership, Cottey College received ten-year continued accreditation with The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

In recognition of the many accomplishments realized during her time as President of Cottey College, Dr. Washburn has been the recipient of many awards. For her efforts in creating an international community on campus, the French government named her an Officer in the National Order of Merit. In 2003, she was named Chief Executive Officer of the Year for District VI of the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. In addition, the University of Idaho, from which she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees, presented her with the prestigious Silver and Gold award, an honor based on career achievement, and the University of Idaho Alumni Association inducted Dr. Washburn into its Hall of Fame.

There can be no greater testament to an educator than the accomplishments of her students. The many women who have passed through the halls of Cottey College under the leadership and direction of Dr. Washburn have proven to be a worthy and lasting legacy. And though Dr. Washburn will soon be leaving the Cottey campus, many more women in the years to come will benefit from her outstanding work during her 18 years as its President.

Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Members of the House will join me in honoring Dr. Helen Washburn for her years of service and in wishing her all the best in the days ahead.

HONORING SPC JACOB S.  
FLETCHER

**HON. STEVE ISRAEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of SPC Jacob S. Fletcher, a fallen soldier from my district. SPC Fletcher gave his life on November 13, 2003 in Samarra, Iraq.

Jacob was the most recent in a long line of heroes to make the ultimate sacrifice for his country. In the two and a quarter centuries of our nation's history, our country has faced seemingly insurmountable obstacles. But in generation after generation, Americans have risen to the occasion and met every challenge.

In the 18th century, our forefathers were able to beat back the greatest military superpower in the world to secure our independence. In the 19th century, Americans defeated the greatest injustice in the world—slavery. And in the 20th century, millions of patriots, in what has come to be known as America's greatest generation, defeated the greatest evil the world has ever known—the Nazis. Jacob was part of a generation that faces a newer, but no less dangerous tyranny.

He was born and raised on Long Island. In many ways, he was very much like the hundreds of thousands of other children in our country—with one remarkable exception. Jacob was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to secure the blessings of liberty—for his countrymen, for our children, and for America's future. By sacrificing himself for our way of life, Jacob died an American hero.

By fighting for a better world, Jacob, as the poet John Gillespie Magee, Jr. wrote, "slipped the surly bonds of earth" to "touch the face of God." May his name be remembered throughout history, and may he serve as a source of strength and pride to future American generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE ARME-  
NIAN RELIEF SOCIETY WESTERN  
REGION'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Armenian Relief Society Western Region as it celebrates its 20th anniversary of serving communities in the United States.

Founded in 1910, the Armenian Relief Society brought together the existing women's groups into a cohesive nationwide organization with the main goal of serving the needs of the victims of the Armenian genocide. As an independent non-government and non-sectarian organization, the Armenian Relief Society serves the social and educational needs of Armenian communities throughout the world, seeking to preserve the cultural identity of the Armenian nation as well as bringing humanitarian aid to all communities in distress—Armenian and non-Armenian alike.

In response to the growing needs of the communities, the ARSWR was established as a region in 1984. The 26 chapters of the

Western Region have an extensive program of service to the community such as assisting newly arrived immigrants with clarification of legal matters, translation, preparation of documents, employment, distribution of food and other necessities and financial aid, serving over 50,000 clients annually. In an effort to enhance the education of the society's members and encourage their involvement in public service, the ARS sponsors many educational programs such as summer camps, Saturday schools, numerous scholarships, and cultural activities including lectures, concerts and art exhibitions. One of the most successful programs has been the "Sponsor a Child" program through which the Western Region currently sponsors over 1000 children.

The ARSWR has been able to meet and fulfill its challenges for 20 years because of a base of dedicated grassroots supporters, volunteers and donors. It is this partnership that has made such growth and impact possible and will continue to do so in the 21st century.

It is my distinct honor to recognize the Armenian Relief Society Western Region's innumerable accomplishments over the years. I ask all members to join me in congratulating ARS Western Region's 20 years of myriad of cultural and social contributions to all aspects of the community.

IN HONOR OF 2ND LT. CHRIS  
AYOUB, U.S.A.F. CADET OF THE  
YEAR

**HON. PETE SESSIONS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of my Academy appointees that has truly distinguished himself at the U.S. Air Force Academy. 2nd Lt. Chris Ayoub of Richardson, Texas. Chris was recently honored last week as the U.S. Air Force Cadet of the Year.

The Air Force Cadet of the Year Award was established by the Air Squadron of the United Kingdom to recognize the best cadet in a United States Air Force Commissioning Program. The British Air Squadron is a private organization comprised of British citizens who wish to pay tribute to the U.S. military for the support it has provided to the United Kingdom over the years. 2nd Lt. Ayoub is the fourth recipient of the Air Force Cadet of the Year Award.

The Honorable James Roche, Secretary of the Air Force; General John P. Jumper, Air Force Chief of Staff and native Texan; General Michael "Buzz" Moseley, Air Force Vice Chief of Staff and native Texan; Royal Air Force Air Commodore Jerry J. Witte, British Air Attaché and Assistant Defence Attaché; and the Honorable Christopher Sharples, Air Squadron of the United Kingdom, were on hand for the presentation of the award at the Pentagon on Thursday, March 4, 2004.

I was honored to see Chris receive his award at the Pentagon last Thursday, and to be with him for his visit to the White House. President Bush congratulated 2nd Lt. Ayoub on this prestigious and well-deserved award.

I salute Chris for his commitment to serve the country and the U.S. Air Force, as I know that this will be the first of many accomplishments during his tenure of service.

COMMENDING THE BRAVE MEN  
AND WOMEN OF THE NAVAL RE-  
SERVE CENTER IN BALTIMORE

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in commending the brave men and women of the Naval Reserve Center in Baltimore for their bravery and unselfish sacrifice; especially on the afternoon of Saturday, March 6, 2004, when a water taxi carrying 25 passengers suddenly capsized. I would also like to extend my condolences to the family and friends of those who lost their lives as a result of this tragedy.

Last Saturday, on a sunny Spring-like afternoon, a large group, including many related family members, boarded a water taxi near Fort McHenry, in Baltimore, Maryland. These families were calmly crossing the water, when the dark clouds of fate appeared on the horizon. Suddenly, without warning, a violent micro-burst of wind tore through Baltimore's Inner Harbor. On that day, it was reported that winds blew at a rate of more than 55 miles per hour.

Eyewitnesses report that the water taxi, filled with people, was pushed upward and flipped on its belly. One witness, Command Master Chief Melvin Johnson, was going about his regular duties at the nearby Naval Reserve Center. Master Chief Johnson gazed at the sky and noticed the sudden appearance of dark storm clouds approaching. He looked across the harbor from the dock of the Naval Reserve Center and realized that the water taxi carrying 25 passengers would be overtaken by the wind from the approaching storm. In a flash, he saw the boat turned upside down and he immediately sprang into action. He and other members of the Naval Reserve team quickly contacted emergency personnel. At the same time, some of the team members boarded their vessel, a mechanized landing craft (LCM), and rushed to the site of the overturned water taxi. I have been told that the Naval Reserve team reached the overturned vessel within minutes to help the 25 passengers onboard.

The brave men and women of the Naval Reserve team plunged themselves into the frigid waters and used their boat and ingenuity to rescue twelve (12) of the passengers of that over-turned water taxi. The remaining ten who were rescued or recovered were the result of the bravery of the Baltimore City Fire Department team. Sadly, two people died as a result of this horrible tragedy and three people have yet to be recovered. Our prayers are with their families.

Many of these reservists also administered life-saving CPR. As an example of the overall bravery of the Naval Reserve team, Commander Peterson Decker jumped in repeatedly to rescue the passengers and actually lost consciousness many times from the frigid water temperatures. His acts and those of the other reservists can be described as nothing short of completely selfless. They embody the best of the mission of the Naval Reserve Center, an integral part of our military forces.

By all accounts, however, the loss of life would have been much greater if not for the

quick action and unselfish acts of the men and women of the Naval Reserve Center.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the many individuals from the Naval Reserve Center who always work tirelessly to reach out to their neighbors in times of emergency. I want to applaud and recognize these heroes by name: Commander Jim McGovern, Command Master Chief Melvin Johnson, Commander Peterson Decker, Senior Chief Vincent Scardina, Petty Officers Jerry Neblett, Sean Tate and Jeffery King, Mr. Arthur Eisenstein, Mr. Jerome Stoney, Chief Ricardo Duncan, Chief Petty Officer Asa Johnson, Petty Officers William Elwood, Patrick McKenna, David Romano, Carlos Andrews, Gregory Baccula, Garren Diggs, Quenton Dixon, Walter Volkman, Henry Zecher, Arturo Spencer, and the triage team, Lt. Commander Phillip Reed, Petty Officers Yolette Scott-Wilson, Stephen Speegle, Cassandra Fish, Wendy Cruse, Gary Harder, Joey Mercer and Renfro Smith. Again, thank you for your bravery and dedication to duty.

**HONORING SERGEANT MAJOR  
TIMOTHY C. DUNN**

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Major Timothy C. Dunn NCOA Commandant of the 124th Regiment of the Vermont Army National Guard, a former member of the Alabama Army National Guard and Alabama native recently returned from Kabul, Afghanistan.

While stationed in Afghanistan, his duties included mentoring and advising the Sergeant Major of the Afghan National Army. During his travels throughout the Afghan Army Battalions, he noticed that the Afghan Army was wearing different rank insignia from the American, French, British and Korean. Sergeant Major Dunn along with two other Sergeant Majors decided to create the insignia of the Afghan National Army. He wanted to create something that the Afghan National Army would be proud to wear.

After the new rank insignia was completed, Sergeant Major Timothy Dunn met with the Afghan Ministry of Defense to see if they liked the idea. To the Sergeant Major's surprise, they liked the new insignia and immediately adopted the new insignia. It is still to be determined as to where the insignia will be located on the uniform. This will soon be decided by the Afghan National Army.

It is with great honor and pride that Sergeant Major Dunn has served our country. To this day his exemplary service has represented our area and moreover this great nation. I applaud him for his courageous and meritorious efforts while serving in the United States Military.

I want to publicly say, not only to Sergeant Major Timothy C. Dunn, but to all the troops serving our country, thank you for your hard work and dedication to this country.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF LT.  
GOVERNOR HENRY E. MILLIN

**HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN**

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an individual that was not only a leader to the people of the Virgin Islands but a political role model for me and many of us who have chosen a life of public service to the people of the United States Virgin Islands. Former Lt. Governor Henry Allan Millin, one of our most revered public servants, passed on into eternity on February 4, 2004, on St. Thomas.

Henry A. Millin was destined for a life of public service. The son of the pioneering woman senator, Lucinda A. Millin, Henry Millin's contributions to the 20th century modernization of the U.S. Virgin Islands have been significant. He led the way in public housing development, having been appointed Assistant Executive Director of the newly established Virgin Islands Housing Authority in 1950. Mr. Millin later assumed the position of Executive Director.

During his tenure at the Housing Authority, he oversaw the construction of the first public housing units in the Territory. He was commended by President John F. Kennedy for administering one of the outstanding housing operations under the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Henry Millin later assumed the distinguished position as a Senior Vice President for First Pennsylvania Bank N.A. This period of distinguished service in the private sector of our community was followed by an even more momentous four-year term (1978-82) as the third elected Lt. Governor of the Virgin Islands during a tumultuous period for Virgin Islanders, following the death of Governor Cyril Emmanuel King.

Mr. Speaker, I fondly remember Mr. Millin as being one of my first bosses, when I interned with the Virgin Islands Housing Authority as a high school student. He was also a close friend of my father, the former District Court Judge Almeric Christian. I consider myself fortunate to have had such a personal relationship with Mr. Millin. He was certainly an inspiration and a role model for me.

Mr. Millin was also a dedicated husband and father. He was married to Graciela G. Millin and was the father of five children, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my family, staff and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, it is an honor for me to immortalize the memory of Lt. Governor Henry A. Millin by entering this tribute into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. I want to close with a quote from this great leader and public that exemplifies the spirit with which he served:

The people have the right to look forward to changes, not made hastily, nor on the basis of political spleen nor political favoritism. Rather, changes must be on the basis of careful planning, objective thinking, and the interests of the people being the main and determining factor.

May his memory evoke the legacy of progress that he worked so tirelessly to establish for Virgin Islanders.

# ESTABLISHING THE BUDGET FOR THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

## HON. MAXINE WATERS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the CBC Chairman for organizing this Special Order and providing us with this opportunity to speak about one of the most important duties Congress has—establishing the budget for the Federal government.

It is often said that a budget is an indication of the President's priorities. As this budget certainly is a true reflection of the President's priorities, it's painfully obvious that working men and women have much to be concerned about. This budget cuts funding for dozens of important programs, leads us deeper into debt and does nothing to help stimulate the economy.

Since the President took office in 2001, 3 million private sector jobs and 2.8 million manufacturing jobs have been lost. The unemployment rate is 5.6 percent, though this figure is inaccurate because it fails to take into account the hundreds of thousands of workers that have given up looking for jobs and the many workers who have had to "trade down" in salary and benefits in order to become re-employed. If we were to include these men and women, the unemployment rate would be 7.4 percent. Tragically, the unemployment figures for minorities are far worse—almost 10 percent of African-Americans are unemployed.

We should not be proud of these figures. We should be ashamed of them. We certainly should not be praising an economic plan that has failed our workers, as the President, and all too many of my Republican colleagues continue to do each day.

Unfortunately, the President's fiscal year 2005 budget is a continuation of his failed economic policy. Each year the President promises economic recovery and significant job growth, and every year, the American people are disappointed. The so-called economic recovery that President Bush is touting is a jobless recovery and Mr. Speaker, a jobless recovery is no recovery at all.

Mr. Speaker, let me remind you of the promises that this Administration has made regarding job growth. In 2001, the President's Council of Economic Advisors promised 800,000 new jobs by the end of 2002 if Congress passed his \$1.3 trillion tax cut which largely benefited the wealthiest of Americans. Instead of creating these jobs, 2.2 million workers lost their jobs in 2002.

In 2002, the President's Economic Advisors promised 300,000 new jobs if Congress passed the President's economic stimulus plan. Congress did, and thousands more workers lost their jobs.

In 2003, the Council predicted 900,000 new jobs if Congress passed the President's budget and subsequent tax cuts. Congress did but the results were the same as in previous years—thousands more workers without jobs.

This year, we continue to hear the same rhetoric from the President—"pass my budget and watch the economy grow." The President seems to suggest that recovery is just around the corner. However, that 'corner' has proven to be elusive for the past 3 years, and there is no reason to believe that this budget will be

any different. In fact, there is ample reason to believe that this year will be far worse.

Mr. Speaker, not only will this budget do nothing to help stimulate the economy, it fails to provide funding for educational, job training and other programs that our workers rely upon to become effective workers.

For example, the President's budget cuts funding for dozens of education programs including reading and vocational programs. It also eliminates another 38 education programs including community technology centers, dropout prevention programs, and literacy programs for prisoners.

The budget even underfunds the President's signature program, No Child Left Behind, by \$9.4 billion. By underfunding this program, 2.4 million children will not receive the help with reading and math they were promised when the President signed this bill into law.

Furthermore, this budget places additional burdens on men and women who are trying to get off welfare and into decent paying jobs.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, during reauthorization of our Nation's welfare programs, Congress implemented new requirements that required welfare recipients to work additional hours in order to receive benefits. Yet, we did not provide any additional funding for childcare. As a result, parents receiving TANF benefits often are left with the impossible choice of leaving their child home alone or skipping a day at work.

Unfortunately, this budget continues this devastating policy. It freezes funding for childcare at 2004 levels and flat funds it through 2009. As a result, the number of children that receive childcare assistance will decline by 300,000 over the next four years. In addition, the budget only provides half of the funding promised for after-school programs, meaning that 1.3 million children who were promised after-school services will not get them.

Mr. Speaker, the fiscal year 2005 budget is nothing more than a continuation of failed policies. It explodes the deficit, particularly in the fiscal years that the Bush Administration fails to describe in its budget documents. It fails to meet our people's need for healthcare, education, job training, housing, homeland security and many other critical programs. All these priorities are being sacrificed to pay for outrageous tax cuts for millionaires, those who need it least. I urge my colleagues to reject the President's budget and support a budget that will serve the poor and the middle class and provide meaningful assistance to the American people.

## HONORING WILLIAM MARKHAM

### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my Floridian colleagues the Hon. ALCEE HASTINGS, the Hon. KENDRICK MEEK, the Hon. E. CLAY SHAW, the Hon. ROBERT WEXLER, and the Hon. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART to commemorate the contributions of William Markham, Broward County's Property Appraiser and one of Florida's longest-serving officeholders. Mr. Markham died unexpectedly Monday morning, March 8th, of a heart attack,

and he will be greatly missed by his family and by the community that he so dedicatedly served.

Bill Markham reminded us of a gentleman from the 1950's. Every morning, as a reminder of his wife, Sherry, he would cut a flower from his garden to pin to the lapel of his suit. He was always jovial and was frequently seen in his old-fashioned but traditional and proper straw hat. "What you saw is what you got," said Clerk of Courts Howard Forman.

His personality could also be colorful. In high school, he was the lead singer for a local rock band, and he campaigned in recent years with a string of B-movie style ads. In one, Markham's mother parachutes out of a plane so she can get to the property appraiser's office in time to qualify for a tax break.

Indeed, his ebullient personality and individual flare could easily lead one to overlook his deep commitment to his work. He was first elected as property appraiser in 1966, the same position that his father held before his death in 1964. The tax roll was \$1.5 billion then, and Mr. Markham oversaw its 7 percent annual growth to its current annual tax roll of \$104 billion.

As Broward County continued to expand, Mr. Markham fought for the rights of each and every taxpayer. He led the "Save Our Homes" campaign, helping to amend the State constitution so that appraisers could not raise the taxable value of a homestead-exempted property more than 3 percent a year where ownership had not changed hands. He waged a lengthy court battle with county officials to tax government-used incinerators and businesses located on government-owned property at Port Everglades. Arguing the harm to property values, Mr. Markham also supported the plight of Ft. Lauderdale residents in a dispute over the location of power lines through their neighborhood.

Employees describe Mr. Markham as a hands-on administrator. He took a personal role in reviewing assessments of the county's most expensive properties and had an open-door policy for homeowners concerned about their property values. "He was a firm believer that the buck stopped with him," said Joe Zdanowicz, Markham's longtime chief property appraiser.

Mr. Markham died on the eve of his ninth campaign for the Property Appraiser's office. His death was sudden and a terrible shock to people who knew him as energetic and boisterous. He is survived by his wife and two sons, J.R. and Robert. Mr. Speaker, William Markham will be dearly missed by all those who knew him.

## COMMENDING INDIA ON ITS CELEBRATION OF REPUBLIC DAY

SPEECH OF

### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2004*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Madam Speaker, I am very pleased to join India in celebrating India Republic Day. The United States and India share a common colonial history, and today we are both strong democracies that serve as a model for other nations. I am pleased that President Bush and Prime

Minister Vajpayee have agreed to work in partnership on civilian nuclear activities, civilian space programs, and high-technology trade. As we work together towards building trade, peaceful uses of space technology, and combating terrorism, our cooperative efforts will have global benefits, spread prosperity and enhance international security.

With a population of over one billion people speaking over 114 different languages, cultural differences and significant poverty among her people, India faces enormous challenges. However, India has shown her strength, resiliency and vision for over fifty years since adopting a constitution in 1950. She has taken affirmative steps to promote equal and social justice for all, and to improve the plight of the poor. These are values that we share as democratic nations and partners working together to ensure that people have hope and freedom.

Finally, I commend India for the steps she has taken to open relations with Pakistan and work towards a resolution over Kashmir. My best wishes for success in this endeavor that is important not only to the people of India and Pakistan, but also to the rest of the world.

#### FOURTH ANNUAL MOVERS AND SHAKERS AWARDS OF THE VOLUNTEER CENTER OF JOHNSON COUNTY

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 11, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to note an important event in the Third Congress-

sional District of Kansas. On April 14, 2004, the Volunteer Center of Johnson County in Overland Park, KS, will honor outstanding youth volunteers. Eighty-seven young people have been nominated by school personnel and nonprofit organizations for their dedication and service to the community. Eleven of these youth are being recognized for their efforts toward receipt of the Congressional Award. Youth volunteerism continues to grow and be a strong force in Johnson County. These 87 youth exemplify the true meaning of volunteerism and giving back to their community. It is my honor to recognize each student volunteer and their schools by listing them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

First	Last	School
Katy	Accurso	Leawood Middle School.
Jefferson	Adams	Leawood Middle School.
Jonathan	Adams	Leawood Middle School.
Alejandra	Alvarez	Shawnee Mission North.
Jessica	Alvarez	Shawnee Mission North.
Meredith	Beery	Olathe East.
Brooklyn	Bengtson	Olathe South.
Grace	Bernhardt	Leawood Middle School.
Brett	Beyer	Shawnee Mission Northwest.
Jordan	Bluhm	Spring Hill Middle.
Elizabeth	Boresow	Leawood Middle School.
Jessie	Bullock	Notre Dame de Sion.
Meghan	Burrow	Shawnee Mission South.
Lauren	Cantril	Mission Valley Middle.
Jenna	Christensen	Shawnee Mission North.
Jill	Christensen	Hope Lutheran.
Ashley	Coleman	Mill Valley High School.
Ed	Colson	Olathe Northwest High.
Jenna	Davis	Olathe South.
Sam	Davis	Leawood Middle School.
Jennifer	Dennis	Frontier Trail Jr. High.
Tyler	Dixon	Olathe Northwest High.
Carli	Dutton	Olathe South.
Aly	Ferguson	Prairie Star Middle.
Kate	Garrett	Shawnee Mission West.
Sean	Giddings	Trailridge Middle School.
Morgan	Greenough	Prairie Star Middle.
Heather	Gustin	Olathe South High.
Jessica	Habluetzel	Olathe Northwest High.
Josh	Heath	Prairie Star Middle.
Paul	Hechler	Leawood Middle School.
Emily	Heinz	California Trail.
Amanda	Henry	Shawnee Mission North.

First	Last	School
Hilary	Hershberger	Blue Valley West.
Emily	Horne	Shawnee Mission Northwest.
Madison	Huber	Shawnee Mission West.
Andrea	Huckaba	Shawnee Mission West.
Nicole	Kiesling	Shawnee Mission Northwest.
Andie	Kincaid	Frontier Trail Jr. High.
Allyssa	King	De Soto High School.
Stacie	Kornfeld	Shawnee Mission West.
Jason	Lee	Blue Valley Northwest.
Krystian	Lesturgeon	Frontier Trail Jr. High.
Mallory	Loveridge	Shawnee Mission West.
Thomas	Lucy	Leawood Middle School.
Alyssa	Lyon	Olathe South.
Kyle	May	Harmony Middle School.
Magdalena	May	Oregon Trail Jr. High.
Anne	McClain	Prairie Star Middle.
Laura	McGee	Shawnee Mission South.
Meagan	Melloy	Homeschool.
Melissa	Melloy	Homeschool.
Tracy	Milburn	Shawnee Mission South.
Stephanie	Moore	Shawnee Mission South.
Rhea	Muchalla	Shawnee Mission North.
Katie	Murray	Blue Valley North High.
Simin	Naomani	University of Missouri.
Nicole	Nelson	Blue Valley Middle.
Amy	Noonen	Shawnee Mission West.
Hannah	Nusz	Piper.
Kaitlyn	Orr	Shawnee Mission North.
Kathryn	Pierce	Olathe South.
Ashley	Pratt	Shawnee Mission West.
Katie	Rabovsky	Blue Valley Northwest.
Kelly	Rand	Olathe South.
Courtney	Rathke	Oregon Trail Jr. High.
Nicole	Rea	Prairie Star Middle.
Alex	Robinson	Prairie Star Middle.
Craig	Rooney	Shawnee Mission Northwest.
Mallory	Selzer	Barstow.
Kate	Silvers	Shawnee Mission West.
Cassie	Slocum	Trailridge Middle School.
Ashley	Spence	Blue Valley North.
Erin	Starnes	Mill Valley High School.
Katelyn	Stone	Shawnee Mission Northwest High.
Ashlee	Suddarth	Oregon Trail Jr. High.
Erika	Swenson	Johnson Co. Community College.
Tana	Thomason	Oregon Trail Jr. High.
Kathryn	Thomasset	Shawnee Mission West.
Ankita	Trivedi	Olathe North.
Jennifer	Waldman	Mission Valley Middle.
Nate	White	Homeschool.
Kody	Willnauer	De Soto High School.
Andrew	Yager	Frontier Trail Jr. High.
Scott	Young	Olathe South.
Laura	Zeligman	Olathe East.
Mary	Zima	Notre Dame de Sion.